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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY.

IN THE LAST ADMINISTRATION REPORT of Bengal referring to the visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Sir Richard Temple says: "If any thing had been wanted to assure the Government of the loyalty of the people at large in Bengal, it would have been found in the manner in which the Prince of Wales, was welcomed by all classes. It was naturally the case that the excitement was most marked among the upper and the upper middle classes. Even in the remote districts of Chittagong the visit of His Royal Highness created a sensation and interest, and many of the well-to-do portion of the native community flocked to Calcutta to see the Prince and the splendour of his reception. At the other extremity of the Bengal province also, in Orissa, it is reported that there were similar manifestations of loyalty, and that these have certainly tended to bring the British Government nearer to the hearts of the people. A good many zemindars, and others who could afford the journey, went to Calcutta to be present at the Prince's arrival; and foremost amongst these was the Rajah of Pooree, who for the first time in history crossed the sea. Besides the passing displays which are usual on occasions of national rejoicing, and which on this great occasion were distinguished by the highest degree of cordiality and enthusiasm, the wealthier natives of all classes both in Bengal and Behar have raised large subscriptions to commemorate the event by founding educational institutions and by promoting other works of public usefulness; so that the visit of His Royal Highness will leave its mark of permanent beneficence on the country."

LAST YEAR there were 4309 estates and shares in estates, which became liable to sale for arrears of revenue; of these 591 estates and 53 shares, or rather more than one-seventh of the whole number, were actually sold at prices which averaged about nine times the Government demand. In eight cases the sales were annulled on appeal, and in four more cases the sale was cancelled by Government on the recommendation of the Board. The number of separate accounts opened under Act XI of 1859 was 906, of which 819 were under section 10, and 87 under section 11 of the Act.

THE PARTITION CASES disposed of during the year were 366, of which nearly five-sixths belonged to the Patna and Bhagulpore Divisions. The arrears of these cases are heavy, as no less than 1,373 partitions, many of them of several years' standing, remained for disposal in those two Divisions.

THE AREA of lands taken up for public purposes in Bengal during the year amounted to 3,286 acres, which were acquired at a cost of Rs. 10,14,509.

THE SETTLEMENT RULES introduced in the Sonthal Pergunnahs by Sir George Campbell are bearing fruit. In Chota Nagpore, Sir Richard Temple admits, proprietors find it altogether impracticable to obtain enhancement of rents, and some other provisions of the rent law have been found inapplicable to the circumstances of the province. The introduction of a special rent law for Chota Nagpore is under the consideration of Government.

WHILE SO MUCH is said about enhancement of rent by the landlord, little do we know of the operations of Government in khas mehals in this direction. We read that the settlements effected during 1875 were 618 in number. The rates of assessment, we are told, have been determined after careful consideration of the circumstances of the land and of the ryots; and. though they are pronounced to be fair, it is regretted that the ryots of only a very few mouzahs have as yet agreed to the rates. The percentage of the increase varies considerably, but the least expected is 50 per cent., and on this calculation an increase of Rs. 1,33,000 in round numbers is anticipated in the two estates of Jalamutha and Majnamutha alone. The Collector of Midnapore has, however, expressed doubts on the possibility of realizing peaceably the enhanced revenue imposed on these two large estates, and he apprehends that there will be opposition on the part of the ryots to any such measure of increase. So much for the moderation of Government in settling the estates under its direct management.

HOW SATISFACTORILY are the Government estates managed will be seen from the following figures. The total number of government estates in Bengal is no less than 2,514. The total demand of revenue from the Government estates in 1875-76 was Rs. 18,82,195. The unrealized balance of the year amounted to no less than Rs. 4,96,568, or 26·38 per cent.

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY.

A QUESTION lately arose whether outsiders should be appointed managers of Wards' estates. The Board of Revenue considers that it will generally be found most expedient to appoint qualified Government officers as managers, but that a discretion may properly be left to the Court to appoint other persons when the circumstances of the estate or peculiar personal qualifications may render such a measure expedient. In this opinion the Lieutenant-Governor generally concurs. The Lieutenant-Governor remarks that the Paikpara estate, which is one of the most successfully-managed properties under the Court, is in the charge of a gentleman, who is not a servant of Government.

THE FOLLOWING notice of the Chuckdighee estate appears in the last Bengal Administration Report. "Chuckdiggee is a large estate which has been bequeathed by its late proprietor, Baboo Sharoda Prosad Roy, to his nephew, the minor, Lolit Mohun Roy. The estate is in good condition, but the Court of Wards on behalf of the minor is unfortunately compelled to be engaged in constant and expensive litigation with Rajessury Debea, the widow of the late proprietor." But could not the Court of Wards bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute? The suit going on has become a public scandal. More than a lac of rupees has it is said been already absorbed by Counsel's fees.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE has recorded the following opinion on the management of Wards' estates in the district of 24-Pergunnahs:

"In the 24-Pergunnahs district a step has been taken to improve the Satkhira estate by the removal of the late manager but it is reported that the Deputy Collector who has been appointed has shown but a faint heart and no special aptitude or inclination for his work. Regarding the mismanagement of the Narail minor's estate in the district of Jessore, special proposals have been under consideration, which seem calculated to introduce greater efficiency, conjoined with harmony, as regards the shareholders of five-sixths of the estate which cannot be brought under the Court of Wards. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets to say that the management of the Wards' estates in this division has been generally unsatisfactory, although it is the case that since the close of the official year under review many improvements have been effected and reforms carried out."

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT throws as little light upon the Durbangha estate as possible. Sir Richard Temple says generally: "The administration of the Durbhanga Raj during the year has been a source of much anxiety to Government. The Commissioner does not allude to this subject in his report, and it was not necessary to discuss it fully. The circumstances of this estate have been adequately discussed in previous reports." But the public have not had a full story of the management of this princely estate. What was the cash balance of the estate when Sir George Campbell wrote about it in 1872, and what is it now? We believe an accumulation of about a crore of rupees has dwindled into a few lacs.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE makes the following confessions regarding the defects of the Bengal Police:

"The larger proportion of presumably innocent persons who are year after year arrested by the police is a matter for grave consideration and regret. Though some improvement in this respect is apparent, if the figures of former years are examined the present proportion of arrests to convictions must still be held to be unduly large. Sir Richard Temple has previously noticed this fault, and he has now positively insisted on such measures being taken immediately by the Magistracy and the Police Department as shall ensure a remedy being applied. He has always considered that the making of arrests on insufficient grounds is one of the worst failings of the police, and that the unfavourable estimation in which the Police Department is held among some sections of the native community is perhaps more owing to their proceedings in this particular than to any other cause. These unnecessary arrests are chiefly attributable to ignorance, and improvements can only be looked for as the police become better educated and instructed, and are made to understand more clearly their duties and responsibilities. There is much to be done in this respect. If errors of procedure are always carefully pointed out by all District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police, and if proper notice is taken of all instances in which the police exceed their powers, the Lieutenant-Governor is confident that future returns will show a far smaller proportion of arrests to convictions. He has warned every Magistrate and every District Superintendent that in each district from time to time the returns will be jealously scrutinized with this view."

We hope the Hon'ble Mr. Eden will remedy these defects.

THE SESSIONS ACQUITTALS are also increasing. For the past three years the percentages of acquittals to persons tried has gradually increased, and has amounted to 43, 45, and 47 per cent. in each year. These facts show that the commitments were bad. But is the Legislature consistent? It has given summary jurisdiction to Magistrates, who exercise so creditably their discretion in making the commitments to the Sessions.

THE FOLLOWING table shews the ages of convicts, who were admitted into jails during the past year:

PRISONERS ADMITTED DURING 1875.	Male.	Female	Total.	Proportion of females to total per thousand.
Under 12 years of age ...	56	8	64	125
12 and not exceeding 16 years	311	38	349	108
16 ditto ditto 20 ,,	1544	143	1687	84
20 ditto ditto 30 ,,	10904	668	11572	57
30 ditto ditto 40 ,,	10029	455	10484	43
40 ditto ditto 50 ,,	4296	288	4524	50
50 ditto ditto 60 ,,	1979	128	2107	60
Above 60 years of age ...	365	21	674	31
Total	29772	1689	31461	53

The number of juvenile offenders in Bengal it will be seen is very small.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY.

IN 1875 the High Court of Bengal sat for 248 days out of 365. Then on Saturdays the Court generally does no work. It thus enjoys holidays for nearly 6 months. Too much strain ought not to be put upon the judicial mind, but so many holidays are too much of a good thing.

THE FOLLOWING table shows the totals of the various kinds of original civil suits instituted in the courts of the interior during the year 1875:

INSTITUTED IN	Suits for money.	Under rent law.	Other suits.	Total.
Small Cause Courts ...	45 675	.....	... ..	45,075
Moonsifs' ,, ...	123.510	115,977	35,136	274,623
Sub. Judges' ,, ...	1,519	587	1557	3,663
District Judges' ,, ...	46	21	38	105
Revenue ,, ...	.....	7,126	.....	7,126
Total ...	170,150	123,711	36,731	330,592

It will be seen from the above how small is the institution of suits in the District Judge's Court. Is not this a test of the popularity of the Courts presided over by the Native Judges?

THE FOLLOWING statement gives in one view the constitution of the various Municipal Committees in 1875:

ACTS.	1875-76. Europeans.	Natives	Officials.	Non-officials.
Act III of 1864 ...	194	240	175	259
,, VI ,, 1868 ...	177	814	269	722
,, XX ,, 1856 ...	12	416	18	410
,, XXVI ,, 1850 ...	11	3	2	12
Total	394	1,473	464	1,403

By far the most important Municipal Committees are thus constituted under Act XIII. of 1864, and in those bodies the non-official native members are swamped by European and official members.

THE FOLLOWING statement shows the number and tonnage of the vessels which entered and left the port of Calcutta during the last two years:—

1874-75 ...	... Arrivals 927	Tonnage	1,280,604
1874-75 ...	... Departures 961	,,	1,321,993
	Total ... 1,888		2,602,597
1875-76 ...	... Arrivals 914	Tonnage	1,274 944
1875-76 ...	... Departures 906	,,	1,284,321
	Total .. 1,820		2,559,265

This shows a decrease both in the number of vessels and in the gross tonnage, which is attributed to the depressed condition of trade during the year.

A COMMITTEE was appointed last year to report upon the Hooghly survey service, and the necessity for a professional survey of the entire bed of the river. They have now submitted their report. Their proposals are—

(1) The substitution of steam for sailing vessels which are at present employed in the river survey.

(2) The appointment of a River Conservator to take charge of the following branches of the Marine Department:—

(a) The River Survey Department with its various duties.

(b) The light-houses and light-vessels of the river and it approaches.

(c) The houses of refuge on the sea-face of the Sunderbans.

(d) The Wreck and Anchor Department.

(3) To divide the survey of the river into two sections, viz. one from Diamond Harbour to the Sandheads, including the James-and-Mary Sands, and the other from Diamond Harbour upwards as far as the survey may extend.

(4) To make a scientific survey of the river from Diamond Harbour to Nuddea.

The report is under the consideration of Government.

WE ARE sorry to learn the death of Mrs. Elen in England. The news of this melancholy event was received in Calcutta on Monday last.

THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY.

WE HAVE received a lengthy but interesting account of the festivities held in celebration of the marriage of the son of His Highness the Maharaja of Burdwan. We are sorry we cannot make room for it, as it is not our practice to publish accounts of weddings, shrads and like ceremonies.

WE ARE glad to have the assurance of the Munsif of Sewan that there is no truth whatever in the statements regarding his court contained in the anonymous letter, which we noticed in our issue for the 22nd ultimo. We readily publish this contradiction.

WE HAVE received the following letter from Bogra:

"We are at a loss to find out the reason why the Magistrate of Bograh has declined to recieve a Deputation of the Bograh People's Association, who wanted his permission to submit a loyal address to Her Majesty the Empress of India on the occasion of the proclamation.

His worship alleged, that he could not recognise an association which might not be tolerated by the Government; and the rules and objects of which have not been officially communicated to him.

We presume the objects of this body had been explained to him long before the inaugural meeting took place. Its objects are nothing but loyal, and similar to those of like bodies elsewhere. 'Tis certain, this Association, if allowed to exist, will prove an humble adviser of the administrative body, for the amelioration of the condition of the District."

Surely it would not have been *infra dig* on the part of the Magistrate to have received the loyal address. And why should he refuse to receive petitions from local bodies? The Government does not refuse a hearing to any subject, however humble.

A CORRESPONDENT at Amptah says that some months back the District Judge of Hooghly had recommended that the cutchery house of the local Munsif, which is a thatched shed, should be built pucca, but that nothing has yet been done in the matter. Some of the Mofussil cutcheries are no better than cow-sheds, and it is a public scandal that they should be used as temples of justice.

OUR ORISSA Correspondent writes that the cash balances in the local treasuries have become so low that the encashment of currency notes has been stopped.

WE TAKE the following from the *Times of India*:

"A monster meeting of 15,000 people, of all classes, consisting of sowcars, townsfolk, half-starved labourers, and sunburnt women, choked the main roads in Mungulwar to-day. People began to pour in from ten in the morning. They all whispered that Mr. Grant is transferred because he has been thorough. The police arrangements were excellent, and all passed off smoothly. Many cases of small-pox were seen. The prospects of famine are growing serious, and private charity is in full swing. After the regular business of the meeting was over, Dongersee distributed rice of the value of 100 rupees to children, and each shop contributed one bag of jowaree. The Sarvajanik Sabha were called in to assist, and through them the meeting telegraphed to the Viceroy as follows:—"15,000 people, representing various sects and classes, including men from town and works in talookas, assembled now in Mangulwar, requested us to lay before your lordship their complaints. The hot season has set in. Water is very scanty. Small-pox and cholera have broken out on the works. The reduction of wages in the civil agency, amounting to an anna per woman and 5 pice per man, makes the daily wage quite insufficient for half food even, and has aggravated the misery. Eight thousand in Sholapore talooka alone are thrown out of employ consequent of the want of works. At this crisis the transference of Mr. Grant, whose experience and efforts had worked so admirably, has thrown all into consternation. Ryots telegraphed to the Bombay Government to postpone Mr. Grant's transference. Nothing seems to have been done by them. Our humble request is that your lordship will be pleased to telegraph to the Bombay Government to order the former wages and to order Mr. Grant to continue here until the memorial through post reaches your lordship. Mr. Grant's presence acts morally on the people. Your lordship's ever benevolent disposition will have due consideration to our heart-rending misery."

So the sufferers from the scarcity are becoming demonstrative. We are sorry to see that the petition of the Sholapore ryots has not been complied with.

FRIDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY.

THE EAST gives an instance of how the Road Cess money is spent. Our contemporary says that *chars* are being thrown up on the Boriganga, which obstruct the passage of boats for a good distance. A dredger was ordered from England at an outlay of Rs. 75,000 from the Road Cess Fund of Dacca, but it has been found to be useless. And this is the way our money goes!

NOAKHALLY has been raised to the rank of a full district, and an Additional Judge will be shortly appointed to it.

A FURREEDPORE CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us:

"We had a copious shower of rain here last night and another on the privious night. In this district whenever the clouds thicken in the sky it is sure to rain. Coarse rice sells here now at about 1¾ rs. a maund. Fine rice is not procurable here at all times. Vegetables are very rare in this district. Fish very cheap, and milk dear, except at Goalundo where the latter article is dear. November and December are the cholera months in this district, when thousands are carried off; during the rains the whole district is under water when locomotion by land is out of the question. If the road from the Rajbari Station (E. B. R.) to Furreedpore be completed then the journey to Calcutta from Furreedpore would be shortened and safer, as in that case people would be able to avoid the journey to Goalundo by Padma, which is very difficult and dangerous."

The Road Cess is levied in Furreedpore. Why do not the cess-payers move the Road Cess Committee for the construction of the road in question?

AN ASSAM CORRESPONDENT says:

"Can you tell us why not a single native of Assam was invited to Delhi or presented with any title or other mark of distinction? We may be poor; we have certainly no millionairs, but we have, you will allow, gentlemen of good family position. The sovereign is the fountain-head of honors and distinctions, and if one part of the empire is overlooked altogether as our province has been, have we no reason to feel aggrieved? Our administration is really a benighted administration, our Chief Commissioner had been no administrator before he was pitchforked into his present appointment, holding sway over 4 millions of people. His sole occupation seems to be to secure the regular realization of revenue and to spend money on the Shillong road and to beautify that barren hill tract, as the seat of his Government. The ancient capital of Assam viz., Gowhatti, has been abandoned, and doomed to decay, the high school there abolished and the people thrown 50 years back. I cannot say that the separate Government of Assam has been successful."

A TERRIBLE gun-powder explosion took place lately at Ahmedabad. It is reported that fifty deaths have already occurred, and that a hundred persons are still under treatment, their condition being very precarious. The petroleum from the broken casks is said to have mixed with the gunpowder and to have formed an explosive and combustible paste, which destroyed everything before it.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE it is said recorded a strong minute in answer to Sir Richard Garth's on the subject of Appellate Benches. Sir Richard Garth had asserted that he doubted much whether eleven men of sufficient qualifications could be found in the Civil Service to fill the post of judge in the new Appellate Courts. Sir Richard Temple is reported to have replied: "I might state in equally general terms an opinion that eleven such men could be found; but that would not be satisfactory. I should prefer to proceed as it were from the abstract to the concrete, and to specify the men one by one who might well be selected for these Appellate benches." And so Sir Richard Temple has named his trump cards. But it needs be remembered that the High Court has a better opportunity of testing the merits of our Mofussil Solons than the Lieutenant Governor. The evidence of the High Court is first-hand; that of the Lieutenant Governor second-hand.

A MOST IMPORTANT constitutional question is under discussion before the High Court, viz., the validity of the powers conferred on the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal to withdraw the Garo Hills from the jurisdiction of the courts. Oh! for an hour of Sir Barnes Peacock on an occasion like this!

SIR MICHAEL WESTROPP, the Chief Justice of Bombay, is an unflinching judge, and makes no distinction of person or color in passing his opinions. We noticed last week the report of the Committee of Enquiry into Mr. Mayhew's case appointed by the Bombay bar; their report was submitted to the Chief Justice, who made a judicial review of it. The pith of his Lordship's remarks is contained in the following:

"Believing Mr. Advocate-General, as I do, that the conduct of Mr. Mayhew involved, on his part, both a *suggestio falsi* and a *suppressio veri*, I should have fallen short of my duty as a Judge if I had not made that conduct the subject of grave censure. I should neither deserve nor possess the respect of the Bar, if, under such convictions, I omitted to pass that censure. I limited myself to censure for reasons of mercy, and not for any other reasons whatsoever,—not from any doubt as to the real varity of the case."

Sir Michael Westropp is the Sir Barnes Peacock of Bombay.

SATURDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY.

A MORNING CONTEMPORARY gave out yesterday a rumour to the effect that Dr. Payne, the Health-Officer of Calcutta, had resigned, but he contradicts it to-day, saying that the learned doctor has resigned his seat in the Commission and not his office. Dr. Payne is quite right. As an executive officer of the Municipality he should not have accepted a seat in the corporation; in fact the legislature did not mean that officers in his position should be members of the corporation. They cannot be elected, and *pro tanto* they ought not to be nominated by Government. The corporation sits in judgment upon the work of the executive, who cannot join the judgment-seat without placing themselves in a false position. Dr. Payne has shewn a very proper feeling by resigning the Commission. As for the Commissioners opposing Dr. Payne, we believe we do not exaggerate when we say that there is not a single Commissioner, who has not the highest respect for him. They may sometimes differ from him, but such difference of opinion does not imply want of respect for him. Regarding Mr. Ogilvy's resignation we believe it was understood, when he was appointed, that he would resign after a few months. The fact we believe is that when the corporation was constituted not a single merchant would accept a seat in it, but Mr. Ogilvy was pressed to allow himself to be nominated with a view to give an air of respectability to the new body, and he consented on the understanding that he should retire after a few months. We believe he did not attend more than one meeting of the corporation.

RAJAH Amir Hossein Khan Bahadur of Mahmudabad, a public spirited Talukdar of Oudh, has made a perpetual grant of a village for the furtherance of the objects of the Anglo-Mahomedan College at Allyghur. The village is valued at Rs. 15,000, and a net profit of Rs. 6000 per annum. The Rajah's relations have also most liberally come forward to aid the Institution with donations and subscriptions. Raja Amir Hossein is a fruit of the Canning College of Lucknow.

SOME OF THE passed candidates for the Indian Civil Service for 1874, who are studying law, lately made a scene at one of the Courts by refusing to leave their seats when called upon to do so. If Indian youths had shewn such contumacy, perhaps our Anglo-Indian critics would have recommended their rustication. But in England such conduct is justly looked upon as a prank of youthfulness.

MR. POGSON, the Government astronomer of Madras, gives the following explanation of the weather: "at the present time the ordinary course of Nature's laws affords no promise of rain, but rather of an early, hot dry season, with another year scanty rainfall throughout Southern India and tropical regions in general, with a corresponding reverse effect in countries situated in the lower portions of the Temperate Zone."

OUR ASSAM CORRESPONDENT sends us the following:

"Allow me to state that a serious case of *poisoning* took place at Dhubri. Yesterday the 5th instant, Shaik Jamalhiddin, Cashier, D. W. P. and his wife took, as usual, after dinner, beetlenuts prepared by the latter. In the course of an hour, both of them felt themselves very uneasy, rapidly passing into unconsciousness—a circumstance sufficient for their friends to apprehend the worst possible consequences. Immediately Shaik Nasiruddin, Native Doctor, and Dr. J. P. Cromarty, were called in, who treated the patients so skilfully and successfully that they were soon out of danger. Dr. Cromarty was so very attentive to the suffering pair as to have altogether forgotten his own necessities and comforts for a long while he attended on them. Such conduct on the part of medical men deserves to be publicly noticed."

IN THE MIDDLE of last year there was a serious case of affray in the district of Jessore. One of the Nurrail Zemindars was implicated, convicted and find Rs 500. The defendant appealed to the High Court, which has upheld the judgment of the Sessions Judge. In passing their judgment Justices Jackson and McDonnell quote the following observations of the late Justice Norman:

"Where riot and bloodshed take place as the result of a stand-up fight between the partizans of two rival zemindars; where, as is too often the case, and as the Magistrate has found was the case here *lattials* are employed on both sides, there can be little or no doubt that the riot is, if not for the benefit of, at least mainly instigated by, the zemindars or their agents."

In these observations Justices Jackson and McDonnell concur. The Judges are right. We are however glad to say that *lattialism* as an institution has become a thing of the past.

AN INSOLVENCY CASE was lately tried by Mr. Justice Macpherson, which shews the wisdom of the framers of the new Civil Procedure Bill in exempting the salaries of public servants from attachment for debts. In this case a Mr. Lochner, a clerk in the Board of Revenue at Allahabad, drawing a salary of Rs. 200, had filed an application for the benefit of the law; his only income was his salary, and the Court had ordered him to pay Rs. 50 per month out of it to meet the claims of his creditors. The insolvent did not comply with the order, and the Court was justly indignant. Mr. Justice Macpherson remarks:

"The truth is that, as a rule, once an insolvent gets protection, he gets all he cares about, and forgets wholly his duty to his creditors and to the Court. The case is one of the commonest kind, of which many come before me every Court day. It is the case of a clerk on a salary which though small would be ample for all his wants, if he choose to remain single and be moderately prudent; but who thinks fit to

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indulge in the somewhat doubtful luxury of marriage, combined with unlimited borrowing of money, without the least consideration as to how he is to maintain a wife and family, or how he is to repay the money borrowed. In these cases, it usually is found that much of the money has not reached the hands of the person who makes himself liable for it. But to such persons it cannot be sufficiently often or distinctly repeated, that it matters nothing whether it is as principal or as surety that they sign bonds and promissory notes, and that in the one case as much as in the other they are on the certain road to ruin and dishonour, unless at the time of signing they see clearly their way to pay honestly and fully in cash without injustice to their other creditors & to their families."

But if the new Procedure Bill becomes law, a premium will be held out to such extravagance and dishonesty.

IN THE presence of falling cash balances and decreased land, salt and customs revenues, we are glad to observe that the opium revenue is looking up. Eleven sales of opium shew an increase of £864,112 over the estimate. Possibly we may gain a million in this way.

IN THE QUEEN'S Speech to Parliament the following allusion was made to India:

"My assumption of the title Empress of India at Delhi has been welcomed by the chiefs and people of India with professions of affection and loyalty most grateful to my feelings. I deeply regret the famine, which is not less serious than in 1873, which has overspread a large portion of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, and I am confident that every resource will be employed to arrest its progress, and obtain experience to prevent recurrence of the same, and mitigate the sufferings arising therefrom."

ANOTHER DEFALCATION is reported to us from Krishnaghur. It has occurred in the Road Cess office. The amount missing is estimated at about Rs. 14,000. Suspicion says our correspondent has fallen upon the clerk in charge, who is *nonest inventus*. The Magistrate, Mr. Stevens, we are informed, has attached his property.

WE REGRET to hear of the death after a protracted illness of Babu Bonomali Mitter, late Head Master of the Ootterpara School. He was a man of liberal education and had distinguished himself as a Senior Scholar of the old Hindoo College. He was headmaster of the Ooterpara school, which owed its high rank among mofussil schools chiefly to his exertions. For thirty years he was employed in the Education Department. In private life he was highly esteemed for his moral worth.

SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED Native chiefs and gentlemen from the other Presidencies visited Calcutta after the Delhi Assemblage. Among them was the Newab of Junagurh in Bombay. This Chief and his ministers and officers were entertained at an evening party on Tuesday last by Babu Damudar Das Burmon, to which the elite of native society were invited.

THE EAST INDIA RAILWAY COMPANY desire to foster native talent in the service of the Company. At the last half-yearly meeting of the Company Mr. Crawford, the Chairman, said:

"The Company has now eighty-seven Natives acting as yard-shunters and drivers on branch lines; and the Locomotive Superintendent, Mr. Campbell, reported that the results have been most satisfactory. He further said that it was the positive duty of the Company to the people of India to give them these opportunities of making themselves useful, if they showed themselves competent to undertake duties which had, in the first instance, been necessarily performed by Europeans. It was also the interest of the Company to do so as matter of economy.

The agitation against the employment of natives in the service of the Company is kept up in the Indian papers by interested parties.

THE DEATH-REPORT for the week ending 3rd instant shews a slight rise in the rate of mortality in Calcutta, particularly from cholera. The total deaths were 284, of which 72 were from cholera, 68 from fever, 33 from diarrhœa and dysentry, 24 from pthisis and asthma, and the rest from other causes.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicals:—1. Report on the Chaaritable Dispensaries under the Government of Bengal for 1875. 2 Kabi Kahinee or a collection of poems, odes &c., by Dinesh Chunder Bose, Mymensing. 3. The True Life, a lecture to the Dehra Doon Brahmo Samaj by the Rev. C. H. Dall M. A. 4. A History of the Great Sepoy War in Bengali, by Rajani Kanta Gupta. Part I. 5. Valmiki and His Times. By Profulla Chunder Banerji. 6. Introduction to Botany. By Brojendranath Dey, M. A. 7. Gurugita or Precepts to preachers, in Bengali. 8. The Colonial Intelligencer, No. XI January 1877. 9. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, No. X December 1876. 10. The Calcutta Magazine for February 1877. 11. Subhadra Haran, a drama adapted to the stage, by Jodoogopal Bose. 12. The Anglo-Indian Commercial Advertiser, No. 77 December 1876. 13. Cope's Tobacco Plant, No. 82 Vol. I. for January 1877.

NOTICE.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on Thursday the 15th February next, at 7½ P. M., *Subject*: Laws of Equilibrium in Heavy Bodies.

Donors and monthly subscribers admitted free.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—*Annas* 8.

Tickets to be had of the clerk at the office of the Association between 10½ A. M. and 4½ P.M. (Sundays excepted), and on the days of Lecture up to the time of Lecture.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
10th February 1877. *Honorary Secretary.*

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1877.

LORD LYTTON.

IT IS given out by London gossip that the recall of the present Viceroy is by no means impossible. We are told that "he has good friends in the Cabinet certainly, but an almost equally powerful party hold that he is proceeding on altogether wrong lines of policy, in trying to conciliate the native community at the expense of the Anglo-Indian!" For our part we do not believe this rumour. But we cannot conceal that there are those, who read in certain public utterances of Lord Lytton something like a confirmation of the rumour—not of his possible recall but of the existence of dissatisfaction in England with his policy in India. They say that the reticence of Lord Lytton in his Address at the Delhi Assemblage about the political advancement of natives was due to a consciousness that the English feeling was not quite in his favour, that the great stress he laid upon the many benefits which have been conferred upon India by European enterprise, capital, and industry, was meant as a step to recover lost ground, that if his Lordship went out of his way in his reply to the Address of the British Indian Association to compliment his "English fellow-subjects," his object was apparently to conciliate them or as they put it to apply an antidote to the poison of the Fuller Minute. We repeat we do not share these opinions. We cannot believe that Lord Lytton would care to hold his office, if his motives were questioned in governing the country for the good of the people. To do so is the highest behest of the Gracious Sovereign whom he serves and represents, and he would be untrue to Her and to himself, if he should hesitate to carry it out in its fullest integrity. In fact no English statesman would stoop to come to India and hold the reins of Government, if his conscience should be weighted with burthens of such a revolting and degrading character. But the question is—has Lord Lytton shewn an anti-English feeling? For aught we know to the contrary his Lordship has shewn as good a feeling towards his countrymen as they have a right to expect. Of course he has written the Fuller Minute, but as we said over and over again that Minute was directed against the rampant Anglo-Saxon, whose typical representative was the late Anglo-Saxon Journal, the *European*, who thinks that it is the mission of his race to override the rights, interests and feelings of Her Majesty's Indian subjects, and with whom we feel certain the better class of Englishmen do not in the least sympathize. It is therefore a mistake to suppose that in recording that minute his Lordship was actuated by a feeling against his countrymen generally. There is not another instance in which his Lordship has done or said anything regarding his countrymen, which could be attributed to a hostile feeling. On the other hand word for word, act for act, and man for man, the natives have greater ground to complain of his Lordship than Europeans. Rightly or wrongly the natives do believe that his Lordship has not been true to his early professions in his Address at Delhi. While his Lordship so justly and eloquently said at the Delhi Banquet that one act of deliberate injustice would do greater harm to the Queen's Government than a hundred battalions, his Lordship has done nothing to redress the standing injustice to the natives involved in the ignoring of their inherent right to serve their country and sovereign in all those offices, for which they are qualified by their education and character. Then as they read the list of honors conferred upon Native Chiefs and subjects, they see that the relative value of distinctions bestowed upon the chiefs has been lowered, and that the English honors, which have a value in their eyes, have been chiefly reserved for the English officers of Government. In legislation measures are contemplated, which will put native society a hundred years back. We do not know whether his Lordship has read the provisions of the Civil Procedure Bill, but if his Lordship will take the trouble to go through it, and compare the state of the law which governs the employment of capital on loans in his own country with that which is proposed to be enacted for India under the auspices of his Government, he will at once discover the difference. There are provisions in the Bill, which, if we understand them aright, will have the effect of teaching the turbulent to be dishonest. By these provisions the Legislature seeks to protect the dangerous classes of the community if we may so express ourselves at the sacrifice of private rights. It would be a different thing if protection were offered to decaying families of a turbulent disposition at the expense of the State for the good of the State, which has for instance been the policy of the Incumbrances Bill for the benefit of the Thakurs of Broach and Kaira. Mr. Hope in introducing that Bill the other day said that these Thakoors "had had very important claims from an administrative point of view, because they were of a manly, combative and rather lawless nature. They had great influence, and they had the sympathies of all the dangerous classes of the community, who were always ready to come forward when anything like a row was got up. They had been a source of anxiety ever since we became possessed of the country. They gave us a great deal of trouble during the mutinies in 1857, and there could be no doubt that it would be highly politic to remove any cause of dissatisfaction with our Government." We can understand this, though a public confession of this kind is a confession of weakness. But can there be any justice, if private rights be confiscated for the conciliation of people of this kind. Why rob Paul to pay Peter?

So far then it is not true to say that the lines of Lord Lytton's policy have been too much in favor of the native. But if our information be correct, we believe His Lordship does mean a just, impartial and generous policy towards the native. In fact his poetic imagination, which delights in abstract justice, if we are not misinformed, cannot brook the fetters which are put upon his generous impulses and sense of justice by his advisers and subordinates. He is not, we feel morally assured, opposed to the employment of natives in the civil service—perhaps he will not leave the country without doing something substantial in this line. His Lordship is desirous to avail himself of the advice and aid of educated and influential native gentlemen in the country, and the appointment of the Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore to the Legislative Council shews the sincerity of his wishes. Unfortunately in passing through his noviciate he was obliged to stay out of the capital for the greater part of the year, and did not therefore receive the benefit of the light, which could be found only in the metropolis. It is too early in the day to form an opinion of His Lordship's administration one way or another. That His Lordship has come with a strong resolve to do his duty and to render impartial justice to the subjects of the Crown in this country was evident from the outpourings of his heart on the day he took the seals of office. Hitherto he has necessarily been in the hands of his councillors—Sir Lewis Pelly accredited as it is believed by the Secretary of State to act the wet nurse in matters of foreign policy, and the members of his Council and Secretaries charged to steer him clear through the shoals and sandbanks of domestic policy. But they cannot keep him long in leading strings. He is in fact passing through the same ordeal, through which Lord Mayo passed, and if he has originality, decision, and courage, he is sure to assert his independence. We heard not long ago that far from the being a possibility of His Lordship's recall there was a possibility of His Lordship's resignation. His Lordship's

generous nature rebels against the despotism of the Indian Bureaucracy, and as he did not find pleasure in working under restraint, he was naturally enough not satisfied with his position. But as his Lordship is acquiring experience, we dare say he is gaining confidence in his power to work independently, and the sooner he asserts his personal independence, the better for the country.

INDIAN LEGISLATION.

FOR nearly sixteen years the present system of Indian legislation has been in operation, and the public have had sufficient experience of its working to enable them to form an opinion as to whether it has fulfilled their expectations. Lord Dalhousie's Council had fairly done its work, and although it was a purely official body, it commanded we must confess much greater independence than the present Councils, notwithstanding the non-official element in the latter. Then the Judges of the Supreme Court held seats in the Council and exercised large control over the course of legislation. The Judges themselves were then much more independent of the Executive Government in India than they are now as Judges of the High Court. Then the Chief Justice was the Vice-President of the Council, and as the Governor General, who was President of the Council, did not usually preside, the Vice-President used to take his place. The Vice-President had no seat in the Supreme Council; he was not under the influence of the deliberations of that body; he brought an independent mind to bear upon the consideration of legislative measures; he was assisted by a brother Judge, and the two as representatives of the constitutional law of England, were more than a match for the Law Member of the GovernorGeneral's Council in his special province. Then there were Presidency Members in the Council, who represented the different provinces or presidencies to which they belonged. Legislation was thus made on a broad basis. The only defect in the constitution of Lord Dalhousie's Council was the absence of the popular element. If it had been thrown open to the public by the appointment of a few representative gentlemen, both European and Native, it would have been satisfactory to the people and conducive to the promotion of sound legislation. But a personal squabble occurred between Lord Canning and Sir Barnes Peacock, the then Vice-President of the Legislative Council. Lord Canning had given away Jaigirs as rewards to loyal princes and subjects in recognition of their meritorious services during the Sepoy Mutiny; Sir Barnes Peacock questioned the right of the Governor General to alienate any portion of the territory of the Crown without the sanction of Parliament. Then Sir Bartle Frere as representative of the Government submitted certain proposals for taxation; Sir Barnes Peacock very properly refused to entertain those proposals without the fullest information before the Council; he also questioned the competency of the Secretary of State to make the Mysore Grant. These acts of independence on the part of the Judges of the Supreme Court in the Legislative Chamber alarmed the Executive Government, and Lord Canning proposed to abolish them. In lieu of the Judges Lord Canning proposed to give local Councils to the local Governments and to admit non-official members into both local and imperial Councils. The public seemed to be satisfied; they took it to be an indication of liberal policy in matters of legislation; they regarded it as the first step in advance. But the experience of the last sixteen years shews that the local Councils and the admission of non-official members have been no compensation for the loss of the Judges from the Legislative Council. In the Supreme Council the non-official members have been more ornamental than useful. Although many of them are able men, well acquainted with the circumstances of the country, and respected by the public, they have not either leisure to master the different subjects, which are discussed in the Council, or the courage to speak out. The presence of the Governor General in the Council chamber is a great draw-back. His Excellency is the first gentleman in India, if not in Asia; his position naturally commands the highest respect of all the subjects of the Crown, whether European or native; say what some people may there is we must confess something over-awing in his august presence, and whether the members of the Council admit this or not they cannot conceal it from themselves that they, we mean the non-official members, do suppress a great deal, lest their outspokenness should offend the dignity of Her Majesty's Representative. Perhaps it would contribute more to the independence of the Council, if His Excellency should like Lord Dalhousie and Lord Canning leave the task of legislation to the Council, instead of bringing his personal influence to bear upon it. Then if there is any one in the Council, who wields the greatest power, it is the Law Member. He possesses a fund of special knowledge, which is not equalled by any other member, and the non-official members necessarily labour under a great disadvantage in coping with him. The result is that these generally content themselves to be dummies. Then again the members of the Executive Council with the additional official members constitute the standing majority of the Council. Of course it could not be expected that the Government should surrender its power by giving a majority to the non-official members, but as matters now stand the latter are practically useless. Devoid of professional knowledge and generally of practical experience of the country, except in matters falling within the particular spheres of individual members, they do not venture to combat the official members. The European members are mostly men of business, and have come here to make money; they have not therefore time to study public questions. As for the Native members, they are mostly ornamental; and if occasionally an educated Bengali is taken in, he is lost in the labyrinth of official influences. With regard to the local Councils they are useful when they are inactive. The greater their activity, the more mischievous are they. There is not much scope for legislation in the local Councils, and the range of mind there is also limited. With all its faults the Upper Council it must be admitted lends a higher order of mind to deal with projects of legislation. We are of opinion that the country would not be the worse governed if the local Councils be done away with. The course of legislation pursued by the local Councils shows that they have been constantly tinkering laws which they have already passed. Their work is more a revision of their own acts than the necessary amendment of laws, which the circumstances of society have outgrown.

It may be too late to retrace steps. The Councils have been reformed on something like a popular basis, and that basis ought to be extended. The non-official element ought to include more and more really educated men, who know the country, who are familiar with the circumstances, wants and wishes of the people, who by their position and character command the respect of the public, and who have the courage and independence to express their opinions freely and unreservedly. But over and above all this the Council ought to include the Barrister Judges of the High Court. They only can meet the Law Member on an equal ground. As the Council now works the Additional Members may as well be lopped off, for whatever decision is arrived at by the Executive Council, it is as a matter of course ratified by the Legislative Council. It does what Sir Barnes Peacock refused to do—it registers the decrees of the Governor General's Executive Council. This is a grave anomaly and quite inconsistent with the high character of the Legislature. Such would not be the case if the Judges of the High Court had seats in the Legislative Council. In the British Parliament there is a large number of legally trained men to watch the course of legislation. There are Law Lords in the House of Lords. In the House of Commons there are legal gentlemen, who are ranged according to their political predilections on other side of the House; then there are independent legal gentlemen, who belong to no party. But in the Indian Councils there is no such element. Legal knowledge is monopolized by the Law Member of the Imperial Council. Such a condition is unfair to the other members of the Council. The result is that the Judges of the High Court, though the best qualified to advise in matters of legislation, take no interest in the work. During the first few years of the Council the Judges of the High Court used to be consulted, but when they find that little attention is paid to their suggestions, it is no wonder that they do not trouble their heads about legislative measures. They virtually say that they are paid to administer laws, and not to assist in making laws, and when they are not cared for, why should they thrust their opinions? The other day the Judges of the High Court of Bombay were literally sat upon because they differed in opinion from the Supreme Executive Council regarding the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill. At the present time one of the most important measures that ever came before the Council is under consideration, we mean the Civil Procedure Bill, and we should like to know how many Judges of the High Court have recorded their opinions upon it. If some of them have written about it, it is more for the sake of Sir Arthur Hobhouse personally, than for that of the Council. Mr. Justice Turner of the North West High Court sat with Sir Arthur Hobhouse upon the Bill at Delhi, because the latter sought for his advice; in the same way Sir Arthur we believe takes the opinion of some of the Judges of the Bengal High Court. It cannot be denied that there are no persons in the country better fitted by their position, knowledge, and education to advise in matters of legislation than the Judges of the High Court. We think the time has come for the public to agitate for the restoration of the Judges of the High Court to the Legislative Council. The best interests of the country require their reinstatement.

SIR RICHARD GARTH ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC.

WE HAVE a remarkable judgment of Sir Richard Garth before us vindicating the civil rights of the public. The case arose in this way. A Rule was obtained, on the 26th of May last, calling upon one Durga Churn Nag to shew cause why an order of the Deputy Magistrate of Howrah, dated the 15th of February 1876, purporting to be made under Section 530, Criminal Procedure Code, should not be set aside. This rule was obtained upon two principal grounds:—1*st*. That no preliminary proceeding, as required by the Section, had been recorded by the Magistrate; and 2*ndly*, that the evidence adduced on the part of Durga Narain Nag was not sufficient in law to justify the Deputy Magistrate's order in his favor. This rule was argued first before Mr. Justice Kemp and Mr. Justice Birch; but as they were divided in opinion, it became necessary that the case should be heard before a third Judge, and it was accordingly re-argued before these two learned Judges and the Chief Justice. The facts of the case are these. On the 27th October 1875, the Inspector of the Howrah Police forwarded to Mr. Reily, the Superintendent of the Howrah Police, an extract from his Diary in these words:—

"Extract from Howrah Diary, dated 27th October 1875, No. 5229, 6 P. M.—Inspector and Head Constable Waris Mahomed returned after visiting Tindal Bagan, where there was a likelihood of a riot taking place, and to prevent which two Constables, in addition to the one on duty there, were placed. The riot seems likely to take place, as the land has recently been purchased by one Durga Churn Nag. So I was informed, and deposed to by one Peer Shaw, who, as he says, has had the ijarah of the said land heretofore. Durga Churn Nag's Gomasta, Moonsoor Ally, is erecting a hut, which seems to be the primary cause of this disturbance. Under these circumstances I think it would be advisable to bind both sides down to keep the peace."

This extract was annexed to a letter from the Inspector to Mr. Reily, in which he gave the names of the claimants to the land in Tindal Bagan, and recommended that these parties should be bound down to keep the peace. This letter and extract were sent by Mr. Reily, the Superintendent, to the Magistrate, with the following note endorsed:—

"Respectfully submitted for orders of the Magistrate. There is likelihood of a breach of the peace in Tindal Bagan again. Boge the men named be bound down to keep the peace."

On the back of the Inspector's Report the Magistrate, on the same day, made the following orders:

"Serve a notice on Durga Churn to at once cease from building the hut under S. 518, Cr. P. C. And call on both parties to appear before me this day week with their documents, that

I may determine under Section 530 Criminal Procedure Code, who is in possession of the disputed land."

T. GRANT,
M.

Upon this a notice was issued under the seal of the Magistrate's Office, signed by the Magistrate himself, of which the following is a translation :

"To the Court Inspector of the Criminal Court of the District of Howrah. The two parties mentioned below having entered into a dispute in respect of certain land belonging to the Tindal Bagan within the jurisdiction of the Station of Hawrah, in connection with the building of a house, and a breach of the peace being likely, the 3rd day of November next, Wednesday, has been fixed for the trial (of the case) under Section 530 of the Criminal Procedure Code and two notices (itlanamahs) in the names of the two parties mentioned below are forwarded to you ; and it is ordered that you will serve them in the usual way before the day appointed for the hearing and submit the receipts. The 27th October 1875.

First party.	*Second party.*
Durga Churn Nag,	Peer Khan,
Moonsoor Ali, and	Sheikh Mungloo,
Roushan Aly.	Doctor, and
	Meer Sirdar Aly.

"*All residents of Tindal Bagan.*"

Notices were accordingly served upon the two parties mentioned in the notice ; and after considerable delay, says the Chief Justice, the case was heard before the Deputy Magistrate in the commencement of the present year. We regret that his Lordship has not enquired into the cause of this "considerable delay." If his Lordship had made the enquiry, he would have learnt that delay is not unusual in the court of Mr. Grant. But let that pass. Evidence was given on both sides, chiefly of a documentary character ; and the Deputy Magistrate eventually decided that Durga Narain Nag was the party in possession at the time when the proceedings commenced, and accordingly made an order in his favor. In the High Court the Advocate General argued against the rule, and Mr. Manomohun Ghose in support of it. It was argued by the Advocate-General, that the report of the Inspector of Police disclosed, upon the face of it, sufficient grounds to satisfy the Magistrate that a dispute between these parties had actually commenced, and that a breach of the peace was likely to ensue ; and that the order of the Magistrate upon this report must be taken to mean that the Magistrate was satisfied of the truth of the report, and that, upon the grounds stated in that report, a breach of the peace was imminent. He further argued that even assuming the order of the Magistrate to be insufficient to satisfy the section, the notice served upon the Court Inspector and signed by the Magistrate was of itself a sufficient record of a proceeding to cure any previous defect. His Lordship the Chief Justice remarks :

"It is undoubtedly of the utmost consequence that some settled rule should be laid down upon this subject, and it appears to me, that, when the cases are properly considered, the weight of authority does in fact lay down such a rule. It is clear that the Legislature never intended that a Magistrate should interfere between rival claimants of land in a summary way, and place one party in possession to the exclusion of the other, unless the preservation of the public peace render such interference absolutely necessary. However serious the dispute may be between the claimants, and however desirable the Magistrate may consider it to settle that dispute, he has no right to interfere, *unless a breach of the peace is imminent.* The section therefore requires, that before he takes any steps to bring the parties before him, he must first satisfy himself upon sufficient grounds that there is likely to be a breach of the peace; and in order to secure this, and to satisfy the Court whose duty it is to supervise his proceedings, that he has a right to interfere under this Section, he is bound to record a proceeding, stating the grounds upon which he is satisfied that a breach of the peace is likely to arise. The recording of this proceeding, has been held in a long series of decisions, and I consider quite rightly, *to be the foundation of the Magistrate's jurisdiction ;* and until he has taken this step, he has no right whatever to interfere with the parties' civil rights, or to take any further steps to summon them before him.

Nothing could be more fair and sound than the principle thus laid down by the Chief Justice. His Lordship continues :

"The Magistrate, in the first instance, simply endorses an order upon the back of the Police Report, that a notice should be given to the parties under Section 530 to make their claims before him by a given day. He records no proceeding, showing that he believes the report of the Inspector, or any, and which portion of that report, or that he is satisfied that there is a likelihood of a breach of the peace ; and therefore, in making the order, he is in fact taking steps to bring the parties before him without having first recorded the necessary proceeding. But then it is said, that the order itself implies, that he believes the report, and shares in the apprehensions of the Police, and that we ought to infer this from the very fact of his making the order It is obvious, however, that if we were to give the order this extended meaning, we should be entirely defeating the intention of the Legislature. The fact of the order being made induces no *necessary* inference that the Magistrate believed the report ; and it is perfectly consistent with the contrary supposition that he disbelieved the whole or the greater part of the Police Report and had no real apprehension of a breach of the peace, but that he considered it very desirable to settle the dispute himself between the contending parties. The truth is, that nothing ought to be left to *inference* in such a case. The requisite statement by the Magistrate should be made clearly and unmistakeably before he is allowed to interfere in any way with civil rights of land-owners.

The fact is our Magistrates are too apt to act upon their own suspicions and inferences. They do not care much for evidence, we mean legal evidence. We do not say that this is the case with all magistrates, but we have had so many instances of vigour pushing beyond the law that occasional hints from the High Court would be very useful. The Chief Justice's judgment is very important, but we hope the Executive Government will give due effect to the utterances of the High Court.

EUROPE AND ASIA.

THE political situation in Europe and Asia is justly regarded with anxiety by all lovers of peace. The Conference in Europe on the Turkish question has collapsed. The vigour in the Turkish Council has smitten the European Powers into silence. It is telegraphed that "a circular from the Russian Government has appeared stating that Russia, being desirous of maintaining one accord in Europe on the Turkish question, asks, before taking any decision in the matter, what course the Powers represented at the Conference intend pursuing in view of the demands made upon the Porte having been rejected." What action the European Powers will take is of course unknown, but the English Parliament has been assembled, and Her Majesty the Queen, who this year opened Parliament in person, in her speech from the throne, said : "My object throughout has been to maintain the peace of Europe and to obtain better government for the disturbed provinces without infringing the independence and integrity of Turkey. I regret that the proposals for reforms made to the Porte were not accepted, but the result of the Conference shows that general agreement exists among the European Powers, which cannot fail to have a material effect upon the condition of the Government in Turkey. I am in hopes that the armistice may yet lead to peace, honorable alike to Turkey and the Principalities. I have throughout acted cordially with my allies, with whom and other Powers my relations continue friendly." So far England's policy is clear. She will insist upon reform in Turkish administration, but will not "infringe the independence and integrity of Turkey." There was a debate in Parliament on the Queen's speech. Reuter informs us that "Lord Granville urged the united action of the European Powers in coercing the Porte to accept the proposals made at the Conference. The Duke of Argyll and Lord Hartington accused the Government of changing its policy. Lord Hartington said that Lord Salisbury deserved the thanks of the country for restoring *entente* between England and Russia, and making Turkey understand her relations to England and the Powers under the treaty of 1856. Lord Derby said the maintenance of peace depended upon the decision of the Czar, who may decide that Russia is under an obligation to execute alone the decision of the six great Powers. Lords Beaconsfield and Salisbury protested against Turkey being coerced in any way. Sir Stafford Northcote said England desired to act in union with the great Powers, and that any separate intervention of Russia and Austria would be looked upon with suspicion." If England changes this policy then the present ministry must go. There is no indication however that the Liberals are prepared to follow suit of Russia in coercing Turkey.

But great apprehension arises from the want of decision in the Councils of Turkey. The constant depositions and banishments, which are taking place, shew that there is not that mutual confidence between the Sultan and his ministers, which is of the utmost importance in a crisis like the present. The dismissal and banishment of Midhat Pasha are a bad omen and misfortune to Turkey. The real cause of this strange measure has not been made public. The following telegrams have been received on the subject :

Constantinople, 5th February.—Midhat Pasha has been dismissed and Elhem Pacha, late Turkish Ambassador at Berlin, and Turkish delegate at the Conference, has been appointed his successor. A circular from the Turkish Government has been published, stating that the Porte intends vigorously upholding the integrity of the whole Ottoman Empire, and will contest the right of others to interfere in her internal affairs.

6th.—The negociations for peace which were entered into by Midhat Pasha between the Turks and the Servians have been suspended. The direct cause of Midhat's fall is unknown : meanwhile he has been banished.

7th.—An Imperial decree appointing Edhem Pasha Grand Vizier confirms the new constitution and announces some further reform will be made. The Turkish Ministers have been changed. Edhem Pasha belongs to the old Turkish party. Midhat Pasha the dismissed Vizier was accused of conspiracy to reinstate ex-Sultan Murad. He was at once summoned to the palace, and instantly conveyed on board a steamer.

8th.—It is doubted whether there is any truth respecting the charge of conspiracy brought against Midhat Pasha. Some attribute his fall to Russian intrigue, but an official statement says that Midhat acted contrary to the spirit of the new constitution, and attacked the prerogatives of the Sultan. Great uncertainty prevails respecting the consequence of Midhat's fall.

The fall of Midhat Pasha may lead to the fall of Turkey. In the absence of the genius, which lately presented such a bold front to the European Powers, Turkey may want heart and fail to carry out its promises. If the Sultan allows his vaulting ambition to overshoot the mark, he is sure to fall. The Russian Bear is simply watching the movements of its prey.

The situation in Asia is not quite clear. One day we hear of good feeling between the Amir of Cabul and our Government, and the next day it is contradicted. In the earlier part of the week the following telegrams were received :

Lahore 7th February.—The Amir is still engaged in strengthening himself by appeals to the fanaticism of the people, and publishing Koran texts on their duty to their Rulers. The Akhund of Swat strives to persuade the people to side with the Amir whatever may befall. A noble of Khelat waited on the Amir to complain of the Khan of Khelat, in relation to the British, and was desired to influence the Khelatees to side with Amir. The Amir is averse to an English Resident at Cabool. It is reported that, if his demands are not complied with, he will court the Russian alliance.

7th.—The Russian agent at Cabool is awaiting the result of Syed Noor Mahomed's Mission to Peshawur. The Wahabees of the Black mountain have tendered their services to the Ameer. Akhund has sent messengers to the ruler of Kashkar to aid the Ameer in case of war with the unbelievers.

At the end of the week the following assuring intelligence was wired :

Peshawur 9th February.—The Frontier is quite. The conference between Sir Lewis Pelle and Syad Noor Mahomed (the Envoy from Cabul) is proceeding in a most friendly manner. The Hussan Kheyl Afreedis near the Kohat Pass are supposed to be implicated in the recent raids. It is expected that this may possibly lead to a peaceful solution of the Kohat Pass difficulty.

The political vaticinators are baffled in their calculations. They are really puzzled But amid the rumours of war who knows we may have peace doubly assured. For the sake of our own country we hope there will be peace. Famine and pestilence are raging in the country, and our exchequer is low. If a war breaks out in Europe and Asia at such a juncture woe betide us !

THE FAMINE POLICY.

LAST SATURDAY'S *Gazette of India* contains further papers on the Famine in Western and Southern India. We are glad to find from the Despatch of the Secretary of State to the Madras Government that that Government is exonerated from the charge of inactivity. Lord Carnarvon says : "Your Grace in Council has addressed yourself to this serious emergency with vigour and energy, and you appear to have been well supported by the Board of Revenue and by the district authorities." Unfortunately the Government of Madras was reticent in the beginning. It had made all necessary arrangements, but it forgot the epoch in which it lived—it did not blow its own trumpet, and so its action was misunderstood. The policy of the Government

of India in dealing with the Famine is now well understood. It is not its object to stint relief, but to keep it within the bounds of its own resources. The object of the deputation of Sir Richard Temple is not the supercession of the local Governments but the enforcement of economy. The Secretary of State's despatch contains a quiet hint upon this point. His Lordship says: "The scarcity has extended to the Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Madura, Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, and Kistna districts; the total loss of revenue from land revenue, excise, customs, salt, and stamps is estimated at 140 lakhs of rupees in this and the next year. It is also feared that the relief outlay for labour may involve a cost of 86 lakhs of rupees. With the prospect of such severe losses before it, it will, of course, be the object of the Government of India that such works shall alone be undertaken as shall at once afford immediate relief, and the expense of which shall, as far as possible, cease with the cessation of the scarcity. You will, therefore, be guided in your selection of large works by the instructions of the Supreme Government." Sir Richard Temple is energetically carrying his mission, we cannot say of mercy, but of economy. He has reduced the number of labourers on relief works in Madras by 50,000, and also lowered the wages of labor. Sir Richard in his minute No. 14 writes: "In my minute of the 19th January, I recommended that relief wages in the Madras Presidency should be experimentally reduced from 2 annas to 1½ annas a day for a male adult, that is, a diminution of 25 per cent. The financial effect may be approximately estimated thus: The present number of labourers may be taken at 1,200,000; the average wage may be taken at 1½ annas (including men, women and children, receiving 2 annas for a man, 1¼ annas for a woman and 1 anna for a child per diem), or Rs. 2½ per mensem per head all round. This will give a total of 30 lakhs of rupees per mensem on the whole. A reduction of one-fourth of 30 lakhs, if it can be maintained, would at once cause a saving of 7½ lakhs per mensem. This saving will accrue even if the present total of relief labourers shall fortunately not increase. If it were, however, to increase, the saving would be proportionately greater. If a saving of 7½ lakhs a month were to be carried out for four months, which is the shortest time computable, then the total saved on this heading alone would be 30 lakhs of rupees. In all probability this saving will really be much more. Under some circumstances, which are unfortunately but too probable (that is, increase in the number of relief labourers,) it might amount to 50 lakhs or half a million sterling. This is, I submit, an important consideration financially, which cannot be lightly set aside." Bombay has followed the same policy. The Bombay Government has issued the following orders on the subject:

A man shall be paid at the rate of ½ an anna plus the value of ½ a seer, of 80 tolas, or 1 lb, of grain.

A woman shall be paid at rate of ¼ of an anna plus the value of ½ a seer of 80 tolas, or 1 lb, of grain and

A boy or girl employed on the works, shall be paid at the rate of the value of ⅜ of a seer, of 80 tolas of grain; or, at the option of the Directing Officer, at the rate of ¼ of an anna, plus the value of ½ seer, of 80 tolas or ½ a lb. of grain.

The question is—will such scanty relief keep the poor sufferers in sufficient health to enable them to render a "full day's work?" If they are to be kept on half rations, with what consistency is full work demanded from them? Already the local papers report deaths from starvation. Economy is certainly necessary, but not at the sacrifice of life.

JAIL MORTALITY.

WE wish to draw the special attention of Prison reformers to the heavy rate of mortality in the Bengal Jails. The facts which we give below are well authenticated; we take them from official reports. The daily average number of prisoners of the several classes confined in jails and lock-ups in Bengal during 1874 and 1875 was as follows:—

Class of Prisoners.	Total. 1874.	1875.
Under-trial	919·26	781·53
Convicted	19,546·69	19,563·03
Civil	127·46	117·6
Total	20,593·41	20,461·62

The death-rate in the past year was 5·02 per cent., against 5·69 in the previous year. As the percentage of deaths in the urban and rural populations of selected circles in these provinces during the past year was only 2·48, the Surgeon-General remarks that the above results are not encouraging, and that "they tend to prove that either the circumstances connected with prison life and discipline exert a very considerable influence on the death-rate, or else that the sanitary condition of our jails must be defective." The percentage of deaths in 1875 though somewhat less than in 1874, was still higher than the average for the six previous years, but considerably lower than that for the 24 years previous to these, when it was 7.88 per cent. With regard to former statistics, the Surgeon-General remarks that the improvement in the health of the jail population since 1868 was no doubt rightly attributed to the greater care and attention bestowed on the general sanitation of the jails and their surroundings, as well as on the diet, water-supply, clothing, &c., of the prisoners. "But," he adds, "it would appear that some insanitary conditions still exist and exert an injurious influence on the health of the prisoners. Such conditions, I am inclined to think (independently of the faulty position or construction of the jails), may be found in certain jails under the heads of overcrowding, defective ventilation, damp, a water-supply of inferior quality, and perhaps an insufficient supply of warm clothing in the cold weather." The above remarks, says Sir Richard Temple, are suggestive of melancholy considerations, if it really is the case that one-half of the deaths which occur annually in the jails, or over 500 in each year, are due to preventible causes. But he doubts whether our knowledge of the causes and origin of disease is yet sufficiently advanced to justify such a conclusion. He has noticed that the highest death-rate has not always occurred in the most crowded jails, or in those which are considered to be of the most defective construction from a sanitary point of view. Much of the mortality in the jails, he observes, "is beyond doubt attributable to the fact of imprisonment alone. Criminals also in all countries are men of short lives, and many die in jail of diseases engendered by the dissolute lives which they have led before their conviction. For overcrowding there can now be no excuse, as the orders requiring temporary accommodation to be provided where it occurs are absolute. In the districts where the measure has been reported to be necessary, extra food and extra clothing have been allowed. Damp is inseparable from the climate of Lower Bengal and the Jails are already better in this respect than the huts ordinarily inhabited by the peasantry." And yet we find that the death-rate among the urban and rural populations of selected circles during 1875 is only 2·08. whereas the rate of mortality in the jails was 5·92, The cause of this enormous difference is not satisfactorily accounted for. Surely a humane Government ought not to allow the prison to be converted into a charnel-house.

All that is at present possible, says Sir Richard Temple, has been done to remove and remedy undoubted evils where they have existed, and to improve the health of the prisoners; and His Honor has impressed strongly upon the several District Magistrates and jail officers the heavy responsibility which attaches to them in seeing that due effect is given to the orders which have already issued. To see, for instance, that food is issued strictly in accordance with the prescribed scales, that it is impartially distributed and that it is of good quality; to see that clothing is regularly issued and applied to its proper purpose, that the strong do not oppress the weak, as there is reason to believe is sometimes the case in this matter; to see that due attention is paid to each prisoner's physical health before prescribing the class of labour on which he shall engage; to see that the wards are well ventilated, but not to an extreme, and that overcrowding is duly provided against. Why then there is so much mortality in the jails? The reason, as we conceive, is that prison labor is too hard and has a debilitating effect, that winter clothing is not sufficient, and that solitary confinement on a large scale produces nervous complaints of a serious character. It is because due attention is not paid to the physical condition of the prisoners in regulating labor that there is so much disease and death among them. And because we say this we are told by Sir Richard Temple that "native opinion is adverse to severity of punishment generally and is in favor of shewing as much leniency as possible towards convicts." This we submit with due deference is a mistake. Native opinion is not adverse to severity of punishment, but to the conversion of imprisonment into an instrument of death.

NEWSPAPER MORALITY.

MONTESQUIEU says that without public virtue the people's sovereignty is a mistake and misfortune. Now the best form of the people's sovereignty is the Press, and unless those, who guide it, are honest to the core, their power must be regarded as a source of public misfortune. The republic of letters is the highest form of the republican institution ever known; its members stand on a common ground, and if some of them take a higher rank than others, it is due to their intellectual superiority. But what could be a greater misfortune than that a member of this republic should prostitute his talents for the sake of filthy lucre. Much greater harm is done when such prostitution taints that branch of the republic, which is known by the name of journalism. In England the newspaper press has been raised to the rank of an estate of the empire—it is called the Fourth Estate. It exercises a most potent influence upon the destinies of the nation. It gives utterance to the sentiments, feelings, opinions, wants and wishes of the community. The haughtiest monarch or minister must bow his head before this power in the realm. How much necessary is it then that those who wield this tremendous power should like Cæsar's wife be above suspicion. But certain facts have lately transpired which shew that the wires of some of the organs of English opinion may be pulled by hands not quite pure. We had lately the case of the writer of the city articles of the *Times*. Other leader-writers have also lately figured not much to their advantage. But the disclosures made by the Commission on the debts of the Newab Nazim of Bengal have come upon the world with the light of a revelation. It is true that first class journals are not open to the charges preferred, but there are some names mixed up, which have caused almost a commotion in the literary world of England. Of these gentlemen of the press, who have been thus affected, two have taken a public notice of the imputations cast upon them. The Proprietor of *Vanity Fair* thus writes to the *Pioneer*:

"SIR,—I understand that you have published in your paper a statement to the effect that in 1870, I, as Proprietor of *Vanity Fair* received a sum of £40 as "a donation in acknowledgment of the publication of a likeness of the Newab Nizam," and also a sum of £100 as "another donation and payment for back numbers." I request you will publish this my declaration that the statements I have cited are absolutely and utterly false in every particular.

I have the honor to be
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS GIBSON BOWLES
2, *Harriet Street, London Square, S. W.*
12*th January* 1877.

Dr. Russel, the well-known *Times'* correspondent, who revisited this country last year as Honorary Assistant Secretary to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, writes:

"SIR,—I am informed that there is an article in the *Pioneer* which arrived by the last mail in London, in which my name is mentioned in consequence of its appearing in the Report of the Commissioners on the debts of the Newab of Bengal. I have not been able to procure a copy of the *Pioneer*, and I therefore donot know in what terms you alluded to me, but I trust to your sense of justice for the insertion of my letter in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of last Monday. I may add that I never was applied to by the Commissioners for any explanation of the circumstances under which my name was brought to their notice and that there is no truth in the statement that Mr. Fox paid me £500.

Your obedient servant,
W. H. RUSSELL, L. L. D.,
Barrister-at-law.
Library Chambers Middle Temple, London.
London, 11*th January* 1877."

The quotation from the *Pall Mall Gazette* is as follows:

"I wish to state most distinctly that I never wrote, that I never was asked to write, that I never was inserted, and that I never caused or asked to be inserted, that it was never suggested, and, as far as I know, that it never was intended that I should write or that I should cause to be written, or to be inserted in any newspaper, journal, or periodical whatever any article whatever relating directly to the claims of the Nizam of Bengal, and that I never received any sum of money or any consideration whatever for any such purpose."

The *Pioneer* justly remarks:

"We need only add at present that the situation is in our opinion one which cannot adequately be dealt with, by any of the gentlemen concerned, by letters like the above. The Report of the Commissioners on the Nawab Nizam's debts is an official document that has been published in the *Gazette of India*; the statements that have been made by that document are of a nature which the Commissioners could be constrained to withdraw if they can be disproved. Dr. Russell and Mr. Bowless should correspond with the Government of India, not with ourselves, or with any newspapers, except for the purpose of asking for the publication of any correspondence they may have with the Government of India."

It is stated that the statements of the Commission will be made the subject of a Parliamentary enquiry. The honor of the British Press ought to be vindicated, and we hope some of the public-spirited M. Ps., who take an interest in Indian affairs, will demand the fullest enquiry into the truth of the charges preferred. We read in the above letters that the gentlemen referred to had not been questioned by the commission. If so, they have been grossly wronged. An opportunity ought to have been given to them to clear their character before they had been gibetted to infamy. We dare say we will hear more upon the subject.

In the meantime we are glad to observe that the *Saturday Review* has taken a very proper view of the subject. That journal thus concludes an article upon it:

"It is impossible that the matter should rest here. The inherent difficulties of a sound Indian administration are now increased by a new and a terrible danger. It seems to be assumed that the ordinary safeguards against oppression and mis-government in India are not sufficient. The high tone of the Indian services, the stately policy of a Viceroy with no local partialities, the responsibility of the Minister to Parliament, Parliamentary freedom of debate itself, the unbought advocacy of the press, the standard of public controversy, the estimation in which England is held by princes and people, are all imperilled by these astounding disclosures. It is vain to organise a magnificent spectacle at Delhi, to establish in India an executive power proof against impure influences, and Courts of justice in which the character of the Judges is unsullied, while the opinion gains ground that a highly-finished portrait of an injured Nawab or Raja can be readily drawn to order, and the governing race be painted in the blackest colours, at so much per line. It would really be better openly to set up a Political Agency for the restoration of Indian territories to their alleged rightful owners, or to establish a journal by which articles levelled at the Viceroy and his Council can be paid for rateably like advertisements. We do not think it necessary to foreshadow other contingencies, or to show that this astounding precedent may encourage our tributaries to pay writers to ask for the restoration of a fortress, to claim provinces which have by us been converted into gardens, to demand that clients may be released from the sentences of banishment or detention which have been imposed on them for long-continued mis-government or for heinous crimes. Our first business is with the honour and purity of the literary profession. Already the best informed of the Indian papers has termed these "revelations discreditable to English journalism." Men like Sir George Campbell, Mr. Grant-Duff, and Mr. Fawcett, may be trusted to demand explanations in Parliament. Lord Salisbury may soon have some leisure; but, meanwhile we take the first opportunity of calling attention to a state of things which, if unchecked or unexplained threatens to degrade journalism to the coarse manipulation of Walpole, and to prove that we have no right to look down with contempt on the era of the Stuarts.

This indicates a healthy feeling, and we hope t will be responded to.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE requested by the Bengal Government to give a prominent insertion to the following notification:

NOTIFICATION.

The 22nd January 1877.—Pilgrims or other persons intending to visit the shrines at Seetacoond during the ensuing Shibo Ratree Mela are hereby warned that cholera is prevalent along that part of the road which passes through the Districts of Noakhally and Chittagong, and are advised that they will do well not to proceed to Seetacoond this year.

(Sd.) H. J. S. COTTON,
Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

We hope the notification will have the desired effect, but we fear it is somewhat late.

ACCORDING to the Bombay papers Rao Bahadur Gopal Rao Hari Deshmuk, a Small Cause Court Judge, has been appointed a Joint Sessions Judge of Nassick, his salary being fixed at 25 per cent. less than that of the Civilian incumbent. This is the first appointment of a Native to the Civil Service under the Parliamentary statute of 1870. Bengal is of course left in the lurch.

ACCORDING to the *Bombay Gazette* Lord Salisbury has written to the Government of India to amend that part of the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill, to which the public took the greatest objection. Our contemporary says that His Lordship has requested the Government of India to consider section 4, clause *f* of the Act, which provides that no civil court shall exercise jurisdiction with regard to "claims against the Government to hold land wholly or partially free from payment of land-revenue, or to receive payments charged on or payable out of the land-revenue, or to set aside any cess or rate authorized by Government, under the provisions of any law for the time being in force, or respecting the occupation of waste or vacant land belonging to Government." So principle has triumphed.

WE CONGRATULATE Maharaja Joteendro Mohun Tagore on his election as a member of the Viceregal Legislative Council. He is one of the few scions of representative families of Bengal, who unite to vast landed possessions, great wealth and high social influence, a cultured mind, a keen appreciation of the intellectual and social forces, which regulate the actions of the people and the Government, and an independence of character combined with an unbought grace of life. For two terms he served his noviciate in the Bengal Legislative Council. Lord Lytton deserves the thanks of the native community for inviting another educated Bengali to his Council.

IT APPEARS that opinion is now gaining ground in England that the Delhi Assemblage was a mistake. We have received a private letter from a lady friend in England, who from her high social position has an exceptional opportunity of knowing the opinions and sentiments of the governing class on current topics, and we take the liberty to give the following extract from this letter:

"I saw in one of your numbers that you seemed rather to regret the Imperial Assemblage; now I think it seems to have been a *terrible* waste of money with the alarming prospect of famine for months to come, which *must* have been known of *before* the Assemblage. Nor do I believe that this sort of displays, processions, &c., are at all really appreciated by educated natives of the higher class in these days, or that the assemblage politically speaking could have left any lasting good effect or indeed have had any result at all. The Indian Council were *all* strongly opposed to so large and costly an expenditure and to some of the schemes connected with the Assemblage, but I believe they were overruled in the matter. Only it does seem a mockery when people are starving by thousands that the Government should at all have been occupied with rejoicings and in devising emblems and decorations and other trifling matters. I also think it seems so inconsistent to choose *this* year above all for spending so much money at Simla as I see they are now going to do, but of course this may be changed now. The English papers are very gloomy about the famine prospects and the future deficits, but they say the expenditure must be cut down at whatever cost. Sir John Strachey's task this year will be no easy one. Mr. Eden's appointment to Bengal will be very popular I imagine, and he was certainly the most fit man for the post among those whose names were mentioned."

We believe the Government of India is now busy in making up the accounts of the Assemblage expenditure. The Secretary of State, we hear, has by telegraph peremptorily called for the accounts. Will Sir John Strachey have any objection to publish the accounts in India, we mean not the total amount only but also the details?

MR. MARSDEN, Southern Division Magistrate of Calcutta, has taken leave for two months and a half, and Mr. Amir Ali, Barrister-at-law, has been appointed to officiate for him. After nearly eighteen years a native has been appointed by the Government of Bengal to act as a Magistrate of Calcutta. Although this arrangement is temporary, still we feel grateful to Mr. Eden for breaking the ice. If Mr. Ameer Ali gives satisfaction, we do not see why he should not be appointed permanently. Mr. Dickens has fairly earned promotion, and if he goes back to the Mofussil, Mr. Ameer Ali may be appointed permanently to the Police Bench of Calcutta. It is worthy of remark that in Bombay there are two native gentlemen, who hold the office of stipendiary Magistrate, and in Madras one, but in Calcutta, where the experiment was first tried, for eighteen years there was none. There are other high appointments, which were formerly held by Natives or uncovenanted European officers, but which are now monopolized by Civilians. We hope Mr. Eden will restore them these appointments. We do not for instance see why a Civilian should be a judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court. The Judgship of that court ought to be held out as a prize to the uncovenanted judicial service. Similarly the Assistant Secretaryship to the Bengal Government ought to be reserved for the uncovenanted service.

WE HAVE received the following Resolution of the Lieutenant Governor on the memorial submitted to His Honor praying for mercy to convict Judunath Gangooly, whose case we noticed last week:

RESOLUTION.

READ—

A memorial dated the 2nd February, from the inhabitants and residents of Kalighat and Bhowanipore, praying that the clemency of the Crown may be extended to Judoonath Gangooly, who has been sentenced to death by the High Court.

READ—

A petition, dated 3rd February, from Garibola Dabee, wife of the said Judoonath, to the same effect as the memorial.

The memorial and petition are identical both in their prayer and the reasons on which the memorialists base their application. The memorialists do not allege that Government should interfere in consequence of any doubt thrown on the finding of the Court by reason of any error in law or misconception of fact. They distinctly state that they "do not attempt to question the correctness or otherwise of the finding of the Hon'ble High Court, but only beg that the Lieutenant-Governor will consider whether, having regard to the punishment which the said Judoonath Gangooly has already undergone, the clemency of the Crown ought not to be extended, and sentence of death commuted."

2. Now the finding of the High Court, which the memorialists declare that they are unable to dispute, is that "the prisoner wickedly, premeditatedly, and barbarously took the life of the woman Dassee" It appeared to the Court that "no circumstances of aggravation are wanting in the case. The prisoner's counsel is said to have admitted to the Court that "there was no sort of doubt of the truth of the evidence."

3. The Lieutenant-Governor finds it difficult to follow the reasoning by which a body of educated men, such as the memorialists appear to be, can have brought themselves to believe that a person convicted of such a crime as is described by the Court—a description which they admit to be correct—is an object deserving their commiseration or the clemency of Government.

It was because the Government believed that the jury had given a verdict entirely opposed to the evidence, and because a failure of justice had in consequence resulted, that an appeal was directed to be made. The result of the appeal completely bears out this impression, and the Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied that there never was a case in which clemency was less called for or deserved.

ORDER.—Ordered that the above Resolution be forwarded to the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs for communication to the petitioners; and to the Inspector-General of Jails and Legal Remembrancer for information.

By order of the Lt.-Govr. of Bengal,
R. L. MANGLES,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,
Calcutta, 5th February, 1877.

As we said last week the case was a very bad one, and we are therefore not surprised to see that His Honor has refused to comply with the prayer of the memorialists.

INDIGO DISCONTENT in Sonthalsthan. We have received the following from a correspondent at Rajmehal:

Serious discontent prevails amongst a large portion of the tenants of the Nimtolah Sub-division of the Goamultree concern; the facts are briefly these. The Nimtolah Sub-division is within the Rajmehal Sub-division and therefore the Sonthal Pergunnahs. Curiously enough, while Government has ordered settlement operations on a large scale throughout the district no adjustment of the differences between the ryots and the landlords in this part of the country has as yet been attempted. The consequence is that the unfortunate differences which prevail elsewhere are in full force here. The parties at present in possession of the concern are mortgagees and hold on behalf of a native Zemindar and European lady. I hear hundreds of ryots have absolutely refused to sow Indigo and the mortgagees have brought more than two or three hundred cases for ejecting the recusant tenants from their holdings. Some eighteen or nineteen cases have already been decreed and the rest are likely to follow suit. Fancy Mr. Editor four or five hundred people ejected from their lands. I understand they have petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor that their cases might be heard in some other district and by some other officer than the Sub-divisional Court of Rajmehal. The landlords are armed with all the advantages their position gives them. The ryots are absolutely helpless a man of the name of Chunder Mohun Mozumdar has been trying to help these unfortunate men. A case for criminal breach of trust has been instituted and he is in jail awaiting his trial. In this blessed region which has been christened by the name of the Sonthal Pergunnahs Sir George Campbell tired of the Reign of Law has abolished Mooktears and Law agents. So that we have here a pretty state of things.

WE HAVE received an account of the Agricultural Exhibition at Bancoorah. We are sorry we cannot

make room for it *in extenso*. We give the following extract from the speech of Babu Upendra Chunder Mookerjee, the Secretary to the Exhibition, which will convey to the reader a fair idea of the character of the Exhibition:

"In my notes I observe that there have been 300 competitors over 200 that presented themselves last year. The quality of the rice that has been exhibited is very superior and even Pergunah Moheshara the blackest part of the district has competed for prize (*hear hear*). Pulses and oilseeds too in all their varieties show how much attention has been paid to their growth:—Shellac, Lac-dye, Tusser cocoons, and other articles of commerce shew great improvement. In the department of manufacture, brass utensils of various sorts have been exhibited—brass utensils of such admirable polish and quality as would vie with those of any district; Ornamental carpentry, implements of agriculture, silk, cotton, and Tusser cloths in all their varieties show, gentlemen, that our Exhibition is not a sham but a really useful institution (*hear hear*) In the Live-Stock department are cows and buffaloes, sheep and goat, which show how much care has been bestowed on their rearing. In the "odds and Ends" branch have been shown imitation Chubb's locks, revolvers &c.

The chairman, Mr. Larminie, concluded the proceedings by a suitable speech:

"He congratulated the Committee on the result of their labours pointing out the great improvement that was visible in the present exhibition as compared with those of the previous year. He also urged the zemindars and other influential inhabitants of the district to persevere in their efforts to improve the condition of people and trusted that by continued liberality and energy on their part, the Bankoora exhibition would become an annual institution. Those who had contributed by their exertions to the great success of the exhibition were then warmly thanked, and in conclusion, the Bankoora exhibition of 1877 was formally declared open."

We wish other districts would follow the example of Bancoorah.

THE STATESMAN has passed a glowing and well-deserved eulogium on Dr. Mahendralal Sircar in connection with the Science Association founded by him. Our contemporary justly says that "his patient, persistent, and single-minded devotion to the object he had set before him has been such as may well enlist the sympathy and admiration, not only of every devotee of science, but of every friend of human progress, of every admirer of unselfish heroism, of every reformer, and of every patriot." After giving a history of the Association he wishes to know what "practical work has yet been done." We will give the information he wants. Since the inauguration of the Association Father Lafont has commenced a series of lectures. Dr. Sircar has been unfortunately ailing for the last four months and has not therefore been able to begin his series. Babu Kanyelal Dey Rai Bahadur will we believe give a course of lectures on practical Chemistry. Several students we are informed have commenced their studies, notably among whom we may mention the name of Babu Sarat Chunder Ghosal M. A. The Council of the Association have ordered instruments from Europe, and have also made some purchases here. The house was under repairs since Durga Puja vacation, but the repairs have been finished and the lectures resumed. More money is of course wanted to enable the Council to pursue their operations vigorously. Sir Richard Temple was chiefly instrumental in bringing the Association into existence by giving it a local habitation, but we hope both the Hon'ble Ashley Eden and Lord Lytton will nurse this infant institution with their fostering care. We appeal to them in the eloquent words of Dr. Sircar, which occur in his preface to his collection of papers relating to the Association, dated the 1st January 1877:

To-day India enters on a new stage of her existence, which, we believe, the Providence of God has designed to be the prelude to her re-appearance on the stage of the world, as the land of bright intelligence, of exalted morality, and of universe-embracing religion.

Under the sheltering wings of a Power, which though in the narrowest sense, is foreign, in the broadest sense is more our own, than any we could call our own,—under the protecting shadow of such a Power, which to-day formally guarantees us "the peaceful enjoyment of our own" I have no doubt the potential of these three characteristic endowments of the children of the once glorious Bharatvarsa will develop into the actual again, for the enlightenment and elevation of the human race.

May I hope that the Noble Lord, who to-day cradles India on her new stage of existence, will feel interested in an institution, which, though the humblest and indeed the only one of its kind in this part of the world, may under proper nursing and imperial encouragement have its higest aspirations fulfilled, namely, to enable the indigenous intellect, in noble rivalry with the intellect of the West, to assert its rightful supremacy over the domains of Nature.

If this institution be properly cherished, it will lead to a new era in the intellectual history of regenerated India. We hope our educated countrymen will lend their money, intellect and energy to the successful working of the Association.

MR. JAMES HUTTON is well known in the ranks of Indian Journalism. He is a graceful and effective writer, and possesses experience of five and twenty years. His connection with the London Press has given him a habit of writing even the most unpleasant things in a pleasant style. He proposes to issue a weekly paper, to be called the *Leader*, from next month, and in the prospectus he has issued he has given the programme of his policy. We do not attach much importance to confessions of faith in a prospectus; we judge the tree by its fruits. As regards the natives we can assure Mr. Hutton that they want a fair field and no favour. He promises to do justice to the natives of the country without however ignoring "existing facts." What he means by this we do not clearly understand. We only hope that a consideration of "vested interests" will not blind him to the prior claims to justice, impartial justice, of the children of the soil.

THE UNSEASONABLE rains and storms of last week have upset all meteorological calculations. They were quite at variance with all previous experience, as such rains in the first week of February did not occur within the memory of the oldest inhabitant living. They have done no small mischief owing to their untimely and unexpected visitation. Most of the Rabi crops on the field have been damaged, the prospects of some of the spring crops injured, and the hopes of the mangoe crop this year almost blighted. There have been some damage to ships outward bound and also loss of life and property afloat in the rivers. A correspondent of a contemporary writes that barque *Hamayoon Shah*, which was at anchor at Diamond Harbour was on her beam ends and dismasted; she lost all her masts except a portion of the fore and mizen masts another barque *Zema* (American) was blown down some three or four miles, several boats sunk, though the crew of most of them were saved. Some people who were overtaken by the storm on the way, were blown away with their carriages. A provincial sloop lost her mast and riggings; but the vessel was subsequently secured by the Post Master of Diamond Harbour. There was a sad havoc among the plantain trees in the southern villages of 24-Pergunnahs. Numerous boats laden with rice were sunk in the port of Calcutta, but fortunately none of the crew as far as known perished. It would appear that these storms and rains were wide-spread Sunday the 4th instant was equally gloomy in the North Western Provinces, and in the country about Bombay there were torrents of rain, where streets were converted into pools. In the Central Provinces the late heavy rain and hail have done considerable damage to crops.

WE ARE GLAD to observe that Dr. Shourindra Mohun Tagore's services to the cause of Indian Music are being appreciated in Europe. He has been elected an Associate Member of the Royal Academy of Belgium. We give the following correspondence, which is highly gratifying:

Mr. Gevaert after receiving the musical works of Dr. Sourindro Mohun Tagore thus writes to Mr. De Decker:

My dear Colleague,

I am very much obliged to you for the magnificent invoice of books, which I received through you; I am indeed happy and proud to be thus able to attract the attention of the European *Musicologues* upon the person and the works of Sourindro Mohun Tagore. I have already devoured all these volumes. I mean of course those which I could understand with my little knowledge of Sanskrit and my ignorance of Bengalee,

Every thing offers an immense interest: for the first time we learn something positive on the music of the extreme East.

To Raja Sourindro Mohun Tagore

Dear Sir,

Through the kindness of the Belgian Missionaries in Calcutta, I have received the numerous and interesting publications which you were kind enough to send me.

I forwarded to my colleague of the Royal Academy Mr. Gevaert, the copies destined for him. This gentleman, who is also Director of the Royal "Conservatoire" of Brussels is the most competent Judge of our age in all matters of musical æsthetics.

He is now busy studying your works which have aroused his enthusiasm: "These works, he writes to me, "are for me a *complete revelation*, and they are from an historical point of view of *immense interest*."

He intends at an early meeting of the Academy to read a report on your works, in which he will prove their importance, and he will take that opportunity to propose you as an *associate member* of the *Royal Academy of Belgium*. Both of us have agreed to urge upon our colleagues your claims to this distinction.

I learnt through the Belgian Mission of Calcutta with what noble-mindedness and intelligent patriotism you forward civilization in your noble country and you strive to restore your national music. As an ancient member of the Belgian Government I consider it my duty to second your efforts and to increase by your association our first scientific body the legitimate influence of which you make such glorious use.

I have the honor to be, My dear Rajah, your most obedient servant,

(SD.) P. DE. DECKER.

Late Minister of State. Member of the Royal Academy of Belgium, Brussels, November. 28, 1876.

Brussels, January 4th 1877.

DEAR SIR.—I have the honor of informing you that the Fine Arts Section of the Royal Academy of Belgium (Sciences and Letters), in token of the high esteem entertained for your works, has elected you at to-day's meeting, *An Associate Member of the Academy*, the Diploma of the title is herewith sent.

Whilst conferring this distinction upon you, the Academy hopes that you will take a part in its labours, by communicating to her anything of interest in the branch of Arts and Letters which you cultivate with so much distinction.

I am happy, Sir to be the organ and interpretor of the Academy and I beg to congratulate you and to remain.

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) J. Liagre, Perpl-Secy.

To Rajah Souriudromohun Tagore, Calcutta,

Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fine Arts, of Belgium.

The Fine Arts Section in the meeting of January 4th. 1877 has elected as an Associate Member Raja Sourindromohun Tagore. It was at the same meeting decided to deliver to the above-named gentleman the present Diploma, sealed and signed by the President, and by the perpetual Secretary of the Academy.

The President,

(Sd.) F, Gevaert.

Sd.) J. Liagre, The Secretary.

Brussels, January 6th, 1877.

DR. ROUSSEL of Geneva has invented an apparatus for the transfusion of the living blood from the veins of one person into those of another. The Secretary of State has sanctioned the trial of this instrument in India. Dr. Roussel gives the following account of his instrument in a letter to the Secretary of State:

"I have the honor of informing you that my surgical apparatus for the direct transfusion of human blood has been after more than fifty sucessful operations, approved by the Medical Academies of France, Austria, Belgium, and Russia, and that the Governments of Belgium, Austria, and Russia have already issued a large number of them to their Military Surgeons and Hospitals.

"At London I have already exhibited my "Transfuseur" to Sir Joseph Fayrer, Resident of the Medical Board at the India Office. I held a conference and exhibition at the school at Netley, in the presence of all the medical officers and professors, including Messrs. Longmore and Porter, and others. This very day I performed an operation at the Medico Surgical Society of London, with the blood of a man, and all are convinced that by my method, the noble operation of transfusing the blood is executed with precision and simplicity and that, by its means, the lives of many officers and soldiers who at present die on the field of battle from hemorrhage may be saved. By its means also those maladies which are caused by changes in the state of the blood, such as cholera and fevers which have such a disastrous effect in the colonies may be cured."

"Knowing then that Her Majesty's Government are most careful of the lives of their Soldiers, I considered it my duty to inform you of this, in order that a report on my Transfuseur may be submitted to you, with the view of its introduction into your Medical Service. I place myself entirely at your disposal and that of your Medical officers during my short stay at London."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Statesman* thus writes from Chittagong:

"Cholera is making fearful depredations in this district. To give you a fair idea of the extent of the ravages, I must give you the deaths from cholera during November and December last. In November 2,115 deaths were put down to this malady and in December 5 283. But double that number really perished from this terrible disease. The Police do not get accurate information about deaths from the village chowkidars, who guess at random. This year too many chowkidars have fallen victims to this disease. As far as I have been able to ascertain, I can say that there is not a village—nay not a house in the storm-wave stricken parts—which one can pass by without being truly affected. The cries of orphans, the moans of widows, and the groans of childless parents rend the air.

Now let us see what has been done by our benevolent Government to save the people from destruction. Long minutes have been drawn up by our illustrious Lieutenant-Governor; inspection of the cyclone stricken parts has been made, and most probably elaborate statistics have been submitted. The Sanitary Commissioner was also deputed here, who of course did his best. This gentleman left some instructions, such as the removal of bodies, cleansing of tanks ditches, &c, and the supply of fresh water. Doctors have been sent (though they are few in proportion to the demand) and have been quartered in various parts of the district. But unless his suggestions are carried out at Government expense, nothing will impede the progress of cholera, and what has been done by Government will be mere waste of *money*, *paper* and *ink*."

We are, however, glad to see that things have taken a better turn. It is stated that cholera is now abating in the districts of Noakhali and Buckargunj. It has nearly disappeared from the islands of Sandip, Sidhi, Bidu Laki, and Hattia. In these islands the Sanitary Commissioner, who has been indefatigable in his exertions, reports that he has recently walked from early morn till noon for several days, and only found half a dozen cases. On the mainland, cholera has also diminished. In the Buckargunj district and in Dakkhin Shabazpur the cases are scattered a good deal, and are not fatal. There are no more cases of the diarrhœa form verging into dysentery; and this is a good sign of a steady decrease. We are glad to learn that Mr. Eden has been unremitting in his attention to these districts since his accession to Belvedere. It would be well if the Government would publish a weekly report of relief operations in the tracts where cholera is raging.

APROPOS of the above we learn from the *East* that the Burrisal People's Association proposed to memorialize the Government of Bengal on the following points, I. the suspension of the Government revenue and road cess, II the deputation of a sufficient number of medical men to render medical assistance, and III. the adoption of necessary arrangements for the removal of dead bodies. A deputation of the Association waited upon the District Magistrate with sago and arrowroot worth Rs. 100 for distribution among the sick, and had a conversation with him about the memorial. It is stated that the Magistrate assured them that at his suggestion and request Government had agreed to suspend all Government demands in those tracts, which have suffered from the cyclone till the next crop, and that many more doctors were appointed to supplement the twenty that were already at work in those parts. As regards the removal of the dead bodies, he said that he saw no means of doing so unless the zemindars of the district come forward to assist Government with money. If they paid for the removal of the dead bodies, he would be glad to supply them with men. The People's Association we are told have accordingly given up the idea of submitting the memorial and proposed to call a public meeting and raise subscriptions for the purpose of effecting the removal of the dead bodies. They have further undertaken to supply any quantity of sago and arrowroot that the Magistrate may require for the distressed villages. This is good. The local zemindars ought to co-operate with the Government in the administration of relief and the removal of dead bodies.

WE HAVE received a numerously signed application from the inhabitants of the villages comprised within the jurisdiction of the Munsifi Chowkey of Kalligunj in the Dacca district complaining of the inconvenient situation of the Chowkey and requesting us to move the Government to sanction its removal to Polass, where it was originally located. The present site is not centrical; the place is swampy and unhealthy, specially during the rains, when people have to wade through knee-deep mud in reaching the kutcherry. Though situated on the banks of a river, Tukha by name, there is great difficulty in obtaining good drinking water. It is said that Paloss is more centrically situated, and is much more salubrious and possesses many other advantages, which cannot be obtained at Kalligunj.

REVIEW.

The Calcutta Review No. CXXVII.

(*Second Notice.*)

The article on "Trans-Himalayan Missions and their Results," written in a vigorous and trenchant style, deals with some matters of great commercial and political importance. The establisment of trade relations between British India and Tibet has been one conspicuous item of Anglo-Indian statesmanship ever since the days of Warren Hastings. Some very praiseworthy attempts were made towards the close of the last century to ascertain the expediency of opening up a commercial intercourse with Trans-Himalayan countries like Tibet and the extent to which such intercourse might be developed with advantage. One of these, perhaps the very first, was Mr. Bogle's mission to Tibet during the administration of Warren Hastings. Our *Reviewer's* account of this mission is extremely interesting, though its result was far from satisfactory. Similar missions were undertaken from time to time by enterprising Englishmen unconnected with Government. The knowledge acquired in these missions is summarised by the *Reviewer* in these words:—

"The population of Lhasa with its surrounding monasteries is under forty thousand and there is so far no reason to believe in the existence of more populous settlements further to the east. Then as to the products and the requirements of the country. The wool which is doubtless to be had in any quantity could not on account of the cost of carriage compete with the Australian staple. There is a nearer and equally boundless field for ghee in the Terai of Nepal, where hundreds of thousands of cows graze yearly. The sheep and cattle of the Tibet highlands pine when taken to the lower valleys of Nepal and would certainly not fare better in the greater heat of Hindustan. This disposes of what Mr. Markham rightly call, the real wealth of Tibet. To remain such articles as musk, the demand for which is strictly limited, and indeed for that matter the supply also, and gold, found only on such lofty and remote plains as render it impossible, we believe, to ensure a really large out-turn. The hardships to those inured to them from infancy are so great that probably no adventurers from other countries could bear them, and if they could the difficulty of feeding them is apparently insuperable. Even if gold were forthcoming in abundance what has Great Britain to give in exchange that Tibet wants? A little more rice and a few more spices would satisfy the aspirations of a people who can boast what we cannot on behalf of our labouring classes at home, that they are warmly clad, snugly housed according to their ideas and have unlimited mutton, milk and whisky. Unless indeed anti-Malthusian, we are to take up our parable against polyandry and celibacy, the natural if not voluntary check on over-population in which case we shall find it no easy task to overthrow the institutions of centuries, or when overthrown, to provide the extra mouths with their due quota of abominable food.'

For these reasons the *Reviewer* deprecates any large expenditure of public money upon trade missions to Trans-Himalayan countries. He condemns the policy advocated by Mr. Clements R. Markham of the Geographical Department of the India Office—the policy of establishing "unfettered intercourse through all the Himalayan passes from the Kali to the Dihong." His impeachment of that policy, though severe, is perfectly just. He says:—

"The result of the above 'broadly-conceived and continuous policy' is to be a trade of momentous importance. Has the lesson which Sir Douglas Forsyth tardily learnt during his second mission and with more cautious associates, no meaning for Mr. Markham, or has he been lending too willing an ear to the mercantile clique in the North of England? We cannot forget that influence from this quarter compelled Sir John Lawrence's Government to re-open the question of a survey for a railway to western China, against their better-informed judgment, and with the expensive result of showing that their objections were right. We cannot ignore the unreasonableness of later demands which the manufacturers of Lancashire and Yorkshire have made with respect to their interests in the East. We cannot overlook the fact that these commercial gentlemen never risk a farthing of their own money in endeavouring to ascertain whether their belief in an extensive demand for their goods in Turkestan and Tibet is well-founded or not. Our own reading of history and geography leads us to an entirely opposite conclusion to that of Mr. Markham.

Yes, 'India for English merchants' is the principle which, as well in this as in many other cases, guides the action of Anglo-Indian statesmen. And the gentleman who has attacked that principle so boldly and with such enlightened sympathy for the many millions who are sacrificed so largely inorder to maintain the Indian exchequer deserves the lasting esteem and gratitude of the country. The *Reviewer's* proposal regarding the Trans-Himalayan trade is stated thus:—

"If the Indian Government is wise it will content itself with the establishment of a depot in the neighbourhood of a pass where Indian and Tibetan traders may meet and learn whether their respective countries have still any important wants which they can mutually satisfy. Their self-interest will accomplish more than costly English missions, and any development due to their exertions will, we believe be small.

This is a sensible view of the matter. Trade should be always left to traders, and never undertaken or interfered with by Governments except where strong political complications prevent its expansion. As regards Tibet or Turkestan, the chief moral or political difficulty which exists is the spirit of jealousy and exclusiveness which dominates their peoples and rulers. And we are as much convinced that the difficulty arising from this source is likely to be increased by Governmental action as that it is likely to be diminished by the voluntary agency of trade.

The *Reviewer* is a liberal in Indian politics. Speaking of Mr. Markham's opinion that Jung Bahadoor of Nepal is wrong in keeping up a large army because he cannot on that account reduce duties on British goods, the *Reviewer* says:—

"Till more civilized nations, by ceasing to distrust one another, do away with the chief reason for national debts and huge standing armies, an oriental potentate may be excused if he takes the same measures as they for ensuring the integrity of the territories for which he is responsible. Only twenty years have passed since the neighbouring kingdom of Oudh was annexed, and the fear of annexation, which may seem ridiculous to the English critic who is convinced that that policy can never recur, is still the *bete noire* of the Gorkhali—as fond of his country as any Swiss—whose prejudices Jung Bahadur is fain to respect. * * * If Lord Beaconsfield were to attempt to substitute Imperialism for constitutional Government in England, the consequences to himself at any rate would be very unpleasant. So with Jung Bahadur, if he tried to make his countrymen, who are the largest element in the Nepalese army, turn their swords into pruning hooks.

Every one of these words is just, clear and convincing. But there should have been one word more. The fear of annexation in the Native mind is justified by the *Reviewer* on the ground of its being the result of a strong patriotic feeling. We say that it is *further* justified by a covert act of annexation recently performed by the Government of India. For that, we fear, is the name which Native India gives to the refusal of the British Government to restore the Berars to the Nizam of Haidarabad. The Indian chief, who has territories to rule and to lose, cannot certainly be blamed if he says that he yet finds some trace of the once notorious policy of wrongful misappropriation.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The *Sahachar* entreats the Government not to pass the Civil Procedure Bill until it has heard public upon it. They have serious and heavy objections to this Bill. The views already expressed in the papers will have apprised Government that the public consider it a retrograde movement. The Bill if passed into law will be a source of great injustice in the matter of execution of decrees specially. It is said that many zemindars and landholders who lost their all by the operation of the sale law joined the ranks of the mutineers in 1857, but there is no necessity now for doing what should have been done in 1857. The amendment will not benefit the landed classes. It will only facilitate the exaction of exorbitant rates of interest on the part of usurers. It will throw insuperable difficulties in the path of appeals. It was urged by the public that when the Court of first instance and the first Court of Appeal differed on questions of facts an appeal should be allowed on both fact and law. And there is no trial of summary appeals. They are disallowed on their way to court. Does the Government know what people say and think of this proceeding? To people without sufficient means the door to justice is shut.

With reference to the title of "Raja" conferred upon Babu Harrish Chunder Choudry of Mymensing the *Bharat Mehcer* says that the honor is a compensation for a donation of Rs. 32,000 made by the Babu to Sir Richard Temple's proposed school of Practical Science. In comparing Raja Harrish Chunder with other Zemindars of Mymensing he will not be found to excel any of them in any virtue. Points relating to a man's possessions of personal virtues and traits of character do not come under newspaper criticism. Raja Harrish Chunder may acquire any honor and we do not grudge it to him, but the matter for regret is that the Government should lower the importance of the honors and make the honored objects of ridicule in the eyes of Society.

The *Sahachar* warns the zennana teachers against having recourse to unfair practices to seduce zennana ladies from their duty and loyalty to their husbands. A case occurred lately in which a zennana lady was instructed to read a book on the Christian religion. The lady remonstrated saying that such books were forbidden by her husband. The reply was it is not necessary that her husband should know it. Not to say of the immorality of such seduction, it is in a manner luring a woman of family to ruin.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Oonao Public Library	3	4	0
Secy. High School Reading Room, Hydrabad	13	4	0
H. H. Newab of Rampore	14	6	0
Rai Annodapersad Roy Bahadoor, Cossimbazar	13	4	0
R. Andrews Esq., Noakhally	3	0	0
S. Venkatachar Esq., Chittadroogh	6	0	0
M. Ramaswami Esq., Kadar	13	4	0
Moharani Shurnomoye, Cossimbazar	10	0	0
C. H. Ramaiah Naidoo Esq, Cuttuck	13	4	0
Baboo Moheshchunder Banerjea, Baneoorah	5	12	0
,, Sreenath Chatterjee, Monghyr	13	4	0
,, Lukhput Rao, Guzrat	6	10	0
,, Mohendronath Banerjea, Motihari	3	10	0
,, Bhoobunchunder Haldar, Darjeeling	6	10	0
,, Kishenlal Bagchee Dhoobree	13	4	0
,, Callachand Bose, Patna City	13	4	0
,, Mutiylal Mustofee, Sreepore	2	0	0
,, Jogeshchunder Mittra, Diamond Harbour	6	10	0
,, Obenashchunder Mittra, Agoonsee	3	5	0
,, Doorgaprosunno Das Goopto, Kalliah	3	0	0
,, Harrychurn Lall, Chatra	13	4	0
,, Isanchandra Patranavis, Sylhet	13	4	0
,, Mohendronath Hazrah, Hooghly	10	0	0
,, Onritalal Bhattacharjea, Belsala	4	0	0
,, Kristopersad Chowdry, Moradnagar	6	10	0
,, Kullycoomar Das, Beauleah	15	0	0
,, Hemchunder Barooah, Gowhati	13	0	0
,, Bhugwanchunder Sein, Arwal	13	4	0
,, Pertapnarain Singh, Khyrah	5	1	6
,, Anundochunder Mullick, Chittagong	10	0	0
,, Rajen Irolall Coonar, Bolooty	6	10	0
,, Mohendronath Bhattacharjea, Dinagepore	13	4	0
,, Hurrishchunder Sumonto, Midnapore	13	4	0
,, Dwarkanath Bagchee, Gaibunda	13	4	0
,, Bidhuveson Chuckerbutty, Shillong	10	0	0
,, Nocoree Dhur, Dacca	36	7	0
,, Pearymohun Bose, Arrah	5	0	0

Government Notifications.

Calutta Gazette.—*February* 7, 1877.

GENERAL.—*The 24th January* 1877.—The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to accept the resignation tendered by Mr. S. D. Scott of his appointment as a member of the Commission for the inspection of steam-boilers.

The 31st January 1877.—In continuation of the notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 23rd January 1877, Mr. F. A, Chichester, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Pubna, is declared to have passed in Law by the Higher Standard.

The 1st February 1877.—The services of Baboo Rajendro Nath Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, lately employed under the Irrigation Department of this Government, are placed at the disposal of the Road Cess Committee of Patna, with effect from the date on which he joined his appointment under the Committee.

Moulvi Mujud Bukt Mozoomder, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed leave for three months, in extension of the leave granted to him under the orders of the 6th November 1876.

Moulvi Obedullah, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector Bogra, is transferred temporarily to Dinagepore.

The 3rd February 1877.—Mr. E. H. Ruddock, C.S., just returned from furlough, is appointed to be an Assistant Magistrate and Collector in Rajshahye. Mr. Ruddock will act as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the First Grade.

The orders of the 5th September last, granting to Mr. S. S. Jones, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in charge of the Seetamurhee division of the Mozufferpore district, leave for one month, to enable him to appear at the High Proficiency Examination in Hindee, are cancelled at his own request.

The 5th February 1877.—Mr. E. H. Ruddock, C.S., having reported his return from furlough on the 31st January, is allowed subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days, to enable him to join his appointment.

Baboo Protab Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gya, is allowed leave for two months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

The 6th February 1877.—Mr. F. J. Marsden, Officiating Magistrate of Police, Calcutta, is allowed leave for two months and sixteen days, under section 9, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with the effect from the 17th instant.

Mr. Ameer Ali, Barrister at Law, is appointed to act as a Magistrate of Police, Calcutta, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. J. Marsden, or until farther orders.

Mr. Ameer Ali is also appointed, under the provisions of section 4, Act II of 1869, to act as a Justice of the Peace for the Town of Calcutta.

Mr. J. J. Livesay, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Purneah, on leave, is appointed to act until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Rungpore, from the date on which he may relieve Mr. E. G. Glazier.

POLICE.—*The 13th January* 1877.—Mr. H. G. Wilkins, District Superintendent of Police, Chumparun, is allowed furlough for one year, together with the usual subsidiary leave.

ECCLESIASTICAL.—*The 5th February* 1877.—The Rev. J. Buckley is appointed to be Registrar of Marriages in Cuttack under section 7, Act XV of 1872, *vice* the Rev. W. Miller.

The 6th February 1877.—The Rev. Frank Ambrose Goodwin a Minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Calcutta, is authorized, under clause, 3, section 5 Act XV of 1872, to solemnize marriages between Europeans.

REGISTRATION.—*The 5th February* 1877.—Moulvi Agha Wajiuddin Hyder is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Jugdishpore, in the district of Shahabad, *vice* Akhawari Judgam Sahai, deceased.

EDUCATION. *The 3rd February* 1877.—Mr. H. G. Cooke, Offg. Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to be Secretary to the District School Committee of Dinagepore.

The 6th February 1877.—Baboo Woomesh Chunder Sen, Head Master of the Bogra School, is appointed to be Secretary to the District School Committee of that district, *vice* Baboo Chundra Mohun Mozoomdar, transferred.

OPIUM.—*The 31st February* 1877.—Mr. H. Osborne, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Tehrah, is appointed to be Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Shahabad.

Mr. C. F. Wintle, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Bettiah is appointed to officiate as Sub-Deputy oOpium Agent of Tehtah.

The 3rd February 1877.—Mr. W. D. Ridsdale, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Busti, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 20th March next.

MEDICAL.—*The 1st February* 1877.—The following gentlemen are appointed to be members of the Committee for the management of the charitable dispensary at Pubna:—

Baboo Mahim Chunder Byarck, Medical Practitioner.
„ Kailash Chunder Mozoomder, Medical Practitioner.

Surgeon W. M. Courtney, of the 33th Regiment Native Infantry, is appointed to have medical charge of the Lock Hospital at Barrackpore from the 1st January. 1877.

Assistant Surgeon Poorno Chunder Singh, attached to the Burrisal Dispensary, is allowed leave for 21 days, under section 9, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, from 15th August to 4th September 1876.

The 5th February 1877.—Surgeon J. M. Zorab, Officiating Civil Surgeon, Balasore, is allowed leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code.

Surgeon B. Gupta is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Balasore during the absence, on leave, of Surgeon J. M. Zorab for until further orders.

Surgeon R. T. Wright M D., is appointed to act, until further orders, as Civil Surgeon of Jessore.

The 1st February 1877.—Baboo Nobin Chunder Pal, Officiating Subordinate Judge, Chittagong, is allowed leave for five days, viz. 8th to 12th January 1877, under section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the orders of the 15th September 1876.

Mr. L. W. Hutchinson, Officiating Second Subordinate Judge, Nuddea, is allowed leave for seven days under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 6th January 1877.

The 3rd February 1877.—Moulvi Syed Mahomed Noral Hossein, Subordinate Judge, Shahabad, is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Baboo Matadeen, Moonsif of Chumparun, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Shahabad during the absence, on leave, of Moulvi Syed Noral Hossein, or until farther orders.

The 5th February 1877.—Baboo Jogendro Nath Ghosee, M. A., B. L., is appointed to officiate as Moonsif of Barobaree, in the district of Rungpore, during the absence, on leave, of Baboo Huri Narain Roy, B. L., or until further orders.

Advertisements.

NOTICE.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to a decree of the High Court in its ordinary original Civil Jurisdiction and made in Suit No. 63 of 1876 (wherein Dwarka Nauth Dass is plaintiff and Ramnarain Soor is defendant) and dated the 30th day of March 1876 by the Registrar of the said Court at the Court House on Saturday the 3rd day of March next at the hour of 2 o'clock in the afternoon the under mentioned property namely.

All that upper roomed brick built messuage tenement or dwelling house together with the piece of land or ground thereunto belonging and on part whereof the same is erected and built containing by estimation one biggah and fourteen cottahs be the same a little more or less situate at and being No. 14 formerly No. 12-4 12-5 12-6 and part of 12-3 in Shobhabazar Street in the town of Calcutta and butted and bounded in manner following that is to say on the north partly by Shobhabazar Street and partly by the land and house of Mothoora Caunto Shaw, on the south partly by the tenanted land of Parbutty Churn Soor and partly by the Baneatollah Street on the east partly by the dwelling house and land of Parbutty Churn Soor and partly by the house belonging to one Rakhaul Das Neogbee and on the west by Radhamohun Shaw and Lall Mohun Shaw's Godowns which land was allotted to and formerly occupied by one Russick Chunder Soor.

The abstract of title and conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs Swinhoe Law & Co., and at the office of the Registrar, High Court, original side on any day before the sale and will be produced at the sale.

(Sd.) R. BELCHAMBERS.

Swinhoe Law and Co. Plaintiff's Attorneys High Court Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction the 30th day of January 1877. } *Registrar.*

NOTICE.

To be peremptorily sold pursuant to a decree of the High Court on its ordinary original Civil Jurisdiction and made in suit No. 599 of 1874 (wherein Benode Beharry Mullick is plaintiff and Ram Chunder Chuckerbutty is defendant) and dated the 7th day of January 1875 by the Registrar of the said Court at the Court House on Saturday the 3rd day of March next at the hour of 2 o'clock in the afternoon the under mentioned property, namely.

All that upper-roomed messuage tenant with the piece or parcel of land or ground on part whereof the same is erected and built containing by estimation 18 cottahs be the same a little more or less situate at and being No. 24 formerly No. 22 Punchanuntolla Lane, Bowbazar in the said town of Calcutta and butted and bounded in manner following that is to say on the north by the tenanted house of the late Hidaram Bannerjee, on the south by the dwelling house of Surroop chunder Seal and Fukeer Chunder Seal on the east by the dwelling house of Modoosoodun Burdun and the late Modoosoodun Mullick, on the west by the Lane called Punchanuntollah Lane.

The abstract of title and conditions of sale may be seen at the office of Messrs. Swinhoe Law and Company plaintiff's attorneys and at the office of the Registrar High Court, original side, on any day before the sale, and will be produced at the sale.

(Sd.) R. BELCHAMBERS.

Swinhoe Law and Co. Plaintiffs' Attorney, High Court Original Side. The 30th January 1877. } *Registrar.*

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Koylash Chunder Roymohasoy,
Zemindar and Hony. Magistrate;
Dehoorda Zillah, Baleshwar.

Last Bysakh my wife was laid up with various complicated diseases, so much so that there was no means of saving her life. In this state your Amritarasa was administered to her, and she is perfectly cured now.

Issur Chunder Roy Chowdhry,
Bahalgram, Raigunge.

Your Amritarasa being administered to my wife, her diseases seems to be in a great measure checked. The bodily weakness is much less than before. The pain in the stomach is not entirely cured yet, but I hope, from the state she is now in, that by continuing the medicine longer, she might possibly get completely cured, for the disease is not of a short standing.

Shusi Bhusun Haldar,
Deputy Magistrate of Mathabhanga;
Zillah Kuch Behar.

The curative virtue of your Amritarasa is widely known, and I am very happy to see some patients wonderfully cured by it. I do not know what amount of virtue you are acquiring by saving thousands from untimely death.

Chowdhry Protap Narain Roy,
Zemindar of Bansiliha.

By using your Amritarasa continually my disease has been checked in a great measure. My health is progressing, and I have gained much liveliness. Hoping to be perfectly cured by the use of a few bottles more.

Chowdhry Narain Chunder Roy Bahadoor,
Chooramun in Malda.

Babu Motilal Lahery of the Sub-Division Dhubri and some others have been cured by the use of your famous Amritarasa.

Roy Protap Chunder Barua Bahadoor,
Zemindar of Gouripoor, Dhubri.

I once tried your excellent medicine (Amritarasa) in chronic Headache, and the infallible result duly communicated to you. Now I have much pleasure to inform you again that I have tested its efficacy in some cases of Chronic Fever and Spleen with wonderful effect.

I have also cured 8 Cholera cases by your valuable pills—it is the only best reliable remedy yet found.

Rajendra Nath Datta,
Secy. of Rama N. P. Club.

I have much pleasure to inform you that I have been able to cure 50 cases out of 51, who were suffering under complicated diseases. In conclusion I assure you that your Amritarasa is a very efficacious medicine, and the further circulation of it is indispensibly requisite.

Purno Chunder Banerjea,
Member of Chinsurah Club.

One phial of your Amritarasa has done a good deal of good to my younger brother, who was suffering from a long time under Dysentery, Chronic Fever and Spleen. The 1st and 2nd diseases have altogether disappeared, and the Spleen is much better, and hope, will be cured in another bottle.

Dukhina Perda Roy Chowdhry,
Mohesrakha.

A phial of your Amritarasa was bought by me, and given to a woman who was suffering too much from Chronic Fever and other complicated diseases; and I am very glad to inform you that she is wonderfully cured by the use of the same.

Bonomally Paul,
Goonotea *via* Sainthia.

Last year by using your valuable Amritarasa. I am perfectly cured of Chronic Colic pain (soo), from which I suffered.

Joygobind Dutt,
Jatanpookhu *via* Jalpaiguri.

Your Amritarasa is very efficacious. My friend was suffering from fever for 7 years, from Spleen for 5 years and from Dysentery for 1 year, and was exceedingly weak. He used one phial of your Amritarasa, and is much better now The fever is cured, ¾th of the Spleen is reduced, and in place of about 12 bloody stools daily he has 2 or 3 motions now without blood.

Jogendra Chunder Bosu,
Ghutiabazar, Hugli.

Since a year I had been suffering from fever and cough. Having tried in vain various native and European medicines, I was at last completely cured by using your widely known Amritarasa.

Romanath Banerjea,
Huripur, Zillah Dinagepoor.

My poor letter can describe very little the virtue of your valuable medicine known throughout this part of the world. Often do I hear that many persons in these localities are saved from the attack of many dreadful and fatal diseases by means of your kindness. We have seen that Babu Radha Mohun Mookerjea is cured of a long standing Dyspepsia of an aggravated form, and his wife of a chronic asthma in a short time. Amritarasa (*i. e.* a drink which prevents death) is really achieving what its name imports.

Shama Churn Mittra,
Deputy Post-master, Bansdiha.

My brother has derived great benefit by using your Amritarasa. His colic (sool) pain and rumbling of the stomach are cured.

Prosunno Coomar Dass,
Ratnapur, Moorshidabad.

Your Amritarasa was use in a case of Fistula, the sore is cured, there being now only a spot in the place.

Gobind Chunder Sett,
Fansidewa, Darjeeling.

My venerable father was suffering under fever, cough, and * * * from a long time. He used 3 bottles of your valuable Amritarasa, (though he was unable to use it regularly), and his fever and cough are perfectly cured, * * * *

Burneshw rMaookerjea,
Chooramun, Zilla Malda.

Those who used your valuable medicine Amritarasa here, have all been perfectly cured.

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HEM CHUNDER BANERJEA,
Missirpokhar, Benares.

I have the honor to inform you that your medicine for cholera was received here when the disease had nearly disappeared from the town. It was however administered in 2 cases with successful result.

Sd. W. R. LARMINE.
Magistrate of Bankura.

I am very glad to say that your Cholera pills have cured all the 10 cases in which they were administered.

(Sd.) D. V. SAPRAY,
Bankipur.

I am requested by the Maharaja of Burdwan to inform you that during the recent outbreak of Cholera in this place, your pills were tried in several cases which occurred among the servants of His Highness and were found to be efficacious. In all these cases the medicine was administered in the early stage of the disease but in one case in which it was administered to a patient who was in an advanced stage it was powerless and the man died.

(Sd.) T. B. MILLER,
Private Secretary.

Your Cholera pills are really infallible. Not being a professional man I was afraid to try your medicine at first, but I administered it in 8 cases given up by the Doctors as hopeless. Two of the patients recovered quickly within 6 hours by using only two pills each. The other a child took one pill which stopped his purging, vomitting, perspiration and spasm and caused a discharge of urine, but unfortunately at this stage his parents gave him some other medicine. The result was the disease relapsed and the child died.

(Sd.) BIPIN BEHARI DUTT,
Station Master Doomraw.

The few Cholera pills that you kindly gave me when I went to Gya in the Cholera season, have wonderfully saved the lives of 13 persons from that fatal disease.

(Sd.) RAMCHUNDER PUNDIT,
Sanscrit College, Benares.

I have to inform you that I could not give a fair trial to your medicine during the late outbreak of cholera here. Strictly speaking I treated 2 cases exclusively with your pills and found them efficacious.

I tried the pills in 10 more cases when they had already had other medicines and their disease had sufficiently advanced. However I am glad to say that those that had the fortune to live for some hours after the administration of your medicine, had the action of their kidny established, though mostly died subsequently. Of these ten cases only 2 actually recovered.

From this short trial I cannot arrive at any conclusion though I do not feel myself disappointed.

(Sd.) KHURGESHUR BOSE,
Asst. Surgeon Akyab.

I have much pleasure to say that I have been able to cure 80 cholera cases out of 86 by the use of Babu Hem Chunder Banerjea's Cholera pills in 1875. All these cases were personally treated by me gratis among the Pilgrims. On the subject I have been examined by the Civil Surgeon of Benares who has retained the papers in which the result of my treatment is recorded.

(Sd.) GOPINATH SOOKUL,
Benares.

Last month the Cholera Pills brought from you, were administered to 6 patients, and am very glad to say that all of them were perfectly cured. Cholera medicine, like this, has not yet been discovered. All the patients were cured within six hours.

Gopal Chunder Banerjea,
Native Doctor, Chupra.

Your Cholera medicine is the best one yet discovered. Many persons were cured by its use.

Parmeshwar Bedratna,
Umbica Rajbatty, Kulna.

The good effect of your Cholera Pills cannot be expressed in writing. It was tried in 18 cases among the coolies here. I am very glad to say that all of them have recovered without a single failure.

Moheeooddeen,
In charge, Tea Garden, Koorkurea.

The Cholera Pills sent by you were administered to 5 patients, and the result is that all of them have been cured.

Radha Bulove Sing Deb,
Zemindar, Bankura.

Many thanks for the Cholera Pills you kindly sent me I have tried it in several cases with successful result.

Zahurul Hossain,
Dewan of Talibpur Estate.

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BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

A General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the rooms of the Association on Wednesday, the 24th January 1877, at 4 P.M. Besides the members present, there were some Parsi visitors from Bombay.

Raja Degumber Mitter, C.S.I., Senior Vice-President, in the chair.

The Honble Kristodas Pal submitted on behalf of the Sub-Committee of draft-laws their opinions and views regarding the provisions of the new Civil Procedure Bill

Babu Joykissen Mukerjee then spoke as follows:

I think that the Civil Procedure Bill, to which my friend Babu Kristodas Pal has invited the attention of this meeting, is one of the most important subjects which can at present engage our attention. Those who have not read the Bill can have little idea of the nature and extent of the changes that it seeks to introduce, not so much in the procedure of the courts, as in the substantive rights of property under the guise of a procedure law. I shall not occupy your time by stating all the provisions of the Bill which are open to objection. Some of these objectionable sections will doubtless disappear in the course of the pruning which the Bill will undergo during its future progress, but there are a number of new provisions which appear to have been deliberately made and against which it is our duty to remonstrate. It is proposed, for instance, to punish the default of parties to produce documents, or to answer questions in the first place by an order with reference to the suit, and then criminally for disobedience of the orders of the court. For obvious reasons the conduct of parties should not be treated in the same light as the conduct of witnesses, specially when by so doing, the former would be subjected to a double punishment. An order for the decree or dismissal of a suit is in most cases a severer punishment to a party than a sentence or fine for disobedience of orders. Again, it is proposed to provide for the enforcement and completion of contracts by imprisonment. Such a provision does not obtain among people who in every sense of the phrase are free agents; but to introduce it in a country where the great mass of population is steeped in ignorance, and where contracts for particular purposes are not unfrequently made under coercion, would be to hold out a premium to oppression and to place the poor at the mercy of the rich. No less objectionable is the provision against the institution of suits against Government and public officers in any but the district Judge's court. It is difficult to understand why at a time when there is too much talk about raising the status of the native judicial service by associating native judges with the district bench the Legislature should think of enacting a law than which nothing would perhaps lower the service in the estimation of the people. But what the courts would suffer in dignity by this retrograde move would be inconsiderable compared with what poor suitors would suffer under the proposed restrictions. Litigation with Government was always an unequal contest, but the disadvantage to the private suitor would be greatly increased when he would be required, even in small cases, to undergo the expense and trouble of instituting the suit in the district court instead of in the court near his home. But the portion of the Bill which was open to the gravest objection was that which treated of the execution of decrees. The Bill contemplated a complete revolution of the law regarding the execution of decrees. One could not conceive why the Legislature had taken such a hostile attitude to the employment of capital on loans, for if the provisions of the Bill should become law they would practically bring all monetary transactions to a dead-lock. Not only was the maximum rate of interest reduced to six per cent per annum, which was left to the discretion of the courts to award or not in certain cases. Then again the Bill prescribed a year's limitation for claims for mesne profits accruing thereafter, and required all sales of land to be conducted by the district court; exempted the salaries of public officers and the cases of agriculturists from attachment and sale, and provided that no second application for execution of a decree should be allowed unless it was shown that the decree could not be satisfied by the first application. Further, by a novel and strange process of reasoning the decree-holder was made liable for costs of a suit for recovery of money unless he could show that he had demanded repayment of the loan, and the maximum term of imprisonment for debt was reduced from two years to six months. Judgment-debtors would also be virtually protected from imprisonment, inasmuch as immediately after arrest they would be encouraged to apply for the benefit of the insolvency law, and they would be discharged on giving security for appearance. As if all these provisions were not enough to protect judgment-debtors from supposed oppression at the hands of the decree-holders, the local Government was empowered to exempt any district or tract of country from the operation of the laws regarding the execution of decrees, and to place the decree-holders at the entire mercy of the district collectors. It would be easily seen that should these provisions be passed into law there would be an end to all monetary transactions in the country, in that they would ultimately place all persons who might unfortunately happen to be in need of borrowing money in a much worse predicament than at present. In cases where they could now get money on mortgage of property they would have to consent to an out-and-out sale before they would be able to raise the amount. I beg that this meeting should record its strong protest against these provisions of the Bill and send a respectful representation on the subject to the Vice-regal Council.

Babu Jodoolall Mullick said:—Taking a retrospective view of Indian legislation, he was sorry to notice the spirit in which some recent measures had been conceived. He might instance the Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Appeals Bill, the Dramatic Performances Act, the Presidency Magistrate's Bill, and the Civil Procedure Bill. If it were not for the strong efforts of the local Government to back the improvement suggested by the public, the Civil Appeals Bill as it originally appeared would have become law. As for the Civil Procedure Bill, he would take the liberty to say that even in its amended form it contained many provisions which were open to serious objections. The capitalists would be quite at the mercy of the debtors. The restrictions placed on the execution of decrees would practically nullify decrees. If the Government wished to help the debtors, why should it not take similar measures which it had adopted for the benefit of the Talukdars of Oudh, the Thakoors of Broach, and the like? The Government lately passed a Bill to give a loan to Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, and similarly it could assist ancient houses falling into decay. The Government he submitted ought not to control the value of money by making arbitrary rules for the award of interest. What have capitalists done to deserve this punishment? It was, the speaker felt sure, from the most liberal views of the functions of the Legislature that the usury laws were repealed, and is it now intended to revive them in a covert form? He would refer to the past history of the monetary transactions of Government in this country. Time was when they paid so much as 12 per cent interest on their loans; now they pay 4½ and 4 per cent. and why is this so? Because the rate of interest is regulated by the state of the money market, and cannot beneficially be controlled by legislative pressure. The defects of Indian legislation he was of opinion, were not a little due to the elimination of the Judges of the High Court from the Legislative Council. The provision which introduced the Judges of the late Supreme Court into the Legislative Council had a most salutary effect, inasmuch as their legal knowledge and training, their independence and experience, were eminently calculated to give a healthy tone to the legislative measures. The introduction of a non-official element into the Council, generally speaking, has been fruitless of any appreciable result, and that partly because non-official members were always in a minority, and partly because many of them were deficient in moral courage in asserting their opinions or giving expression to the views of those whom they were supposed to represent.

Dr. Rajendralala Mittra said.—The subject to which he wished to invite the attention of the meeting was a delicate one, as it was connected with religion, and he wished therefore to bespeak the indulgence of his audience.

He entertained very high respect for the old-established systems of religion. Leaving out of consideration all questions about their truth, their dogma, and their philosophy it was undeniable that they had done incalculable good to humanity. Civilization owed its very existence to religion. Take away religion, and the whole fabric of society would at once crumble down into discordant atoms. The highest form of morality was that which was founded on religion, and nothing based on mere philosophy could supply its place; for while the latter was extraneous and adventitious, the former was self-acting, self-supporting, and innate. If the loftiest philosophy failed in a remarkable instance to restrain a distinguished rationalist of the present age from improper association, it would be easy to conceive what would be be the lot of the bulk of mankind, cast adrift without the helm and anchor of religion, and the manifold evils which would distract the texture of society. And to the individual, religion was as all-important as to society. In the hour of tribulation, when human aid is of no avail; under the oppression of the tyrant; in the extremity of disease; under the affliction of poignant grief,—what on earth can afford us so soothing a balm as the solace of religion? It was therefore the farthest from the wish of the speaker to propose anything that would in any way weaken the influence of so beneficial an element in the constitution of society. But he could not shut his eyes to the fact that under particular circumstances religion had proved more injurious to mankind than the greatest commotion of nature. The worst passions of mankind had frequently found the stoutest shield in religion. It was under the cloak of religion that the Hindus and the Buddhists had fought for centuries, destroying hundreds of thousands of the people of this country. The Vaishnavites and the Sivites under the same cloak fought for hundreds of years and deluged the country with human gore. It was in the name of religion that the followers of Muhammad carried war and desolation over the whole length and breadth of Asia and over many parts of Europe and Africa. It was under the plea of religion that the massacre of St. Bartholomew was attempted to be justified and the horrors of the Inquisition reigned for centuries. Religious animosity drove the Pilgrim Fathers from the home of their ancestors, shot the peasantry of Ireland like vermin under every hedge, and expelled a noble race, alike distinguished for intelligence and enterprise, from their father land to find a shelter in India. It was in the name of God and of peace and good-will for mankind that the wars of the Reformation were pressed to their sanguinary end, and even at the very moment when he was addressing the meeting, the speaker said, the lust of conquest and covetousness, were arming in Europe to let, in the name of religion and peace, the hell hounds of war against their neighbours. Turks should not rule over Christians, and so Christians may shoot the Turks even as they are now shooting down and knouting the Tartars, and despoil them of their possessions in Europe, held for centuries. That in a few words was the pith of the Eastern question as regarded Russia; and the circumstance which of all others was the most favourable to making religion a potent instrument for evil, was the union of the Church with State. That union enabled bigoted sovereigns and wicked counsellors to rouse the passions of the masses and carry out their own nefarious purposes. The union was an unholy one, and always tended to mischief. Do away with it, and the causes of war would be cut off by one-half. Nor did the union only foment wars among neighbouring nations; it was a fruitful source of injustice, partiality, oppressions, and tyranny in a hundred different ways, in every Government. The requirements of modern civilization rendered the dwelling of men of different nationalities and religious beliefs under one Government unavoidable; and to rule them fairly and impartially, religious neutrality on the part of Government was a *sine qua non*. Mischief was rife wherever that was wanting, and in some parts of Europe even the dead could not find a decent burial, because the State Church stood in the way. It was a matter of congratulation that under the benign sway of Her Gracious Majesty, India had to complain of nothing so outrageous. "While firmly relying on the truth of Christianity, and acknowledging with gratitude the solace of religion," she had granted the people of this country her august promise that "none will be anywise favoured, none be molested, or disquieted by reason of their religious faith or observance, but that all shall alike enjoy the equal and impartial protection of the law." Her Majesty's officers in India had on the whole faithfully carried out Her noble behests. With a small dominant race of one creed and subject races of many diverse sects and creeds, in no part of the world had the problem of religious toleration been solved more satisfactorily than in India. The doings of a few heedless and bigoted officers apart—and which only proved the rule—the liberty which the natives of this country enjoyed in this respect was greater and more perfect than what was possible in France, Spain, Portugal or Germany in the present day. Indeed, history, whether ancient or modern, could not afford it a parallel. There was however a blot, and so long as it lasted, perfect neutrality in matters of religion, so desirable in every way, could not be consummated. It was not enough that perfect liberty should be granted to persons of every sect to follow their respective creeds; it was essential for perfect neutrality that none should be especially favoured, and this could not be accomplished as long as there existed a State Church, and the relation between the Church and the State became the more galling to all who were beyond the pale of that Church, if it were supported by taxation raised from them. And this was exactly what obtained in India. Amidst a vast and teeming population of Hindus, Mahomedans, Parsees, Jews, Sikhs, Buddhists, and a score of other sects there existed the Established Church of England for the benefit of a few thousands, and at the cost of the people at large. In the province under the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal amidst a population of about sixty-four millions, there were barely ninety thousand Christians, of whom scarcely one-fourth represented the Church of England, and for them alone was a large establishment of ecclesiastics entertained at the cost of the non-conforming millions. Doubtless this state of things had come on gradually, slowly, and imperceptibly. When the East India Company found it necessary to send out priests for the service of their soldiers and civil servants, mostly their own kith and kin, they had every right to do what they liked with the profits of their commerce. It was but fit and proper that in a foreign country the religion and morals of their servants should be taken care of by their masters; and this was what was done. In those days Government also supplied Europe medicines free of cost to their servants, because they could not obtain them in the country. The supply was stopped when medicines became readily accessible. When the Company rose from merchants to the rank of sovereigns, they settled the revenue permanently, and it did not much concern the people how the money taken was disbursed, for in those days there were no fresh taxes, and deficits were made up by other modes than taxations.

But the circumstances had greatly changed since. The country had passed from the hands of the Company to that of the Sovereign The people now felt they had the same rights and privileges as the most favoured subjects of Her Gracious Majesty. Her Majesty too had solemnly expressed Her Imperial will and pleasure that they would be so treated. Taxation was regulated by annual budgets, and every deficit had to be porvided by fresh taxation. The people therefore had an immediate interest in the expenses of Government, and they could not but feel that the expenditure under the head of Ecclesiastical Department was not what it should be. It was utterly uncalled for, for the purposes of State. If all Her Majesty's other subjects, including Christians of several denominations, could maintain their religious institutions without State aid, it was expected that those who belonged to the Established church should do the same. Doubtless the civil servants were brought out to a foreign land, where there was no indigenous source of Church of England priests. But those among the civil servants who were Roman Catholics, Baptists, or Methodists, provided for their religious wants, and so could those who belonged to the fold of the Established Chuch. The Roman Catholics were mostly poor, or comparatively less affluent than the Protestants in India, and if they and the whole body of the Hindus and the Mahomedans could support their churches by their own unaided efforts, those who drew salaries of 1,000 to 2,000 or 3 and 4 thousand rupees a month could pay for the cost of their christenings and burials. For the Government to support a large church establishment for them, leaving the others to take care of themselves, was a manifest impropriety, and needed only to be agitated to be put down. In some districts of Bengal the congregations of the Established Church did not number from three to twenty persons; while the other religious sects numbered by thousands, and the average between the three and twenty enjoyed the support of Government, and the millions had to shift for themselves. True it was that three persons in a district could not maintain a chaplain; but if the exigencies of the service sent men to such places, it was not the duty of the Government to provide for chaplains. As it was, half the districts of Bengal had no ministers of the Established Church, and none had ever heard of tea and indigo companies sending priests to their gardens and factories. The substantial benefits of the service in such cases made amends for its *disgremens*. Then the heavy annual cost for the repairs of churches, and the building of new churches for which Government always paid half the cost, and not unoften the whole—churches raised with heathen money,—was not in keeping with the terms of perfect neutrality. Was there ever a single pice spent for a mandir, or a mosque, a fire temple or a Baptist chapel? If it be proper that Government should aid the people in the maintenance of their religion, the aid should be extended equally and rateably to all; if not, it should be withheld from all. A fair field and no favour was what the people wished. And nothing could be fairer. It had been said, that the Government aided the Hindu and the Mahomedan religions by leaving the Debotter and Pirottar lands unresumed, and therefore they had no reason to complain. But it was not so. The lands had been alienated by former sovereigns, and when the Government acquired the country, it acquired the property which belonged to those sovereigns, and not what they had already alienated. When the Dewani of Bengal was made over to the East India Company, it did not include the Dibottar and Pirottar lands as taxable property, and consequently the Government by not resuming them had made no concession in favour of Hinduism or Moslemism.

As regards the Military service, the speaker said, the question was not quite so simple and easily demonstratable. In course of a recent debate in the French House of Parliament on the propriety of military escorts for the burial of heterodox members of the legion of honor, several distinguished generals maintained that the efficiency of the army did not in any way gain by the ministrations of priests, but on the contrary it often suffered. This was, however, a debatable point on which the speaker did not like to enter. Admitting that large masses of mostly illiterate men, or men of small education, would benefit by the presence of religious teachers among them, the question arose were Protestants and Roman Catholics alone fit to derive the benefit, or were other sects equally amenable to its influence? If chaplains were necessary for Protestants, they were equally so for Baptists, Mathodists, and followers of the Free Church of Scotland. Their number was not quite so large as those of the Protestants, but if a chaplain for three persons in a district was deemed necessary the number of Free Church of

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Scotland men in the army will be found to be considerably more numerous. Take then the native army. Were not the Hindus, the Mohammadans, the Sikhs, and the Gurkhas who constitute it, three times more numerous than the whole of the European members of the army? And if religious ministrations be useful to European soldiers, they should be equally so to the natives. Doubtless the Europeans were on foreign service, away from their fatherland. But the native regiments serving in China, Burmah, Egypt, or Abyssinia, were equally away from their native country, and on duty on foreign soil. The old homely adage "what is sauce for the gander was sauce for the goose," applied very aptly to the case. In making the remarks the speaker wished particularly to disavow all feeling of jealousy or hostility. Relying faithfully and devotedly on his religion for his individual consolation, he earnestly wished that none should be deprived of his own particular creed. The solace of religion was the highest on earth and he would be the last to deny it to his fellow-beings. In dealing with the question, however, next to the equitable he looked mainly from a financial point of view. The state of the Imperial Exchequer he thought was not flourishing. Clipping and cutting down were the order of the day. A large college had already been abolished for financial reasons; another was doomed, and many useful institutions were tottering. The shears were actively at work everywhere, and knowing men looked upon next March as pregnant with many new schemes of taxation. The time was therefore most appropriate for considering what departments were the fittest for abolition, and he thought that the Ecclesiastical establishment, not only the least useful, but a standing source of heart-burning to the people. He begged therefore to move that the Association make a respectful representation to the Government for that purpose. He knew offence might be taken here and there. Some of these who benefited by the establishment might protest against the move, but the thinking portion of Christians will, he left confident, admit that it was not to the honor of Christianity that it should be supported by force contributions from those whom the Christians called "heathens;" and the Parliament of Great Britain, which had disestablished the Church in Ireland, will not think the request of Her Majesty's Indian subjects by any means unreasonable. The inertia of vested interests was hard to overcome; but the arguments which had been found so successful in the case of Ireland, will at the end prove equally so for India; and in that belief he left the question for the support of the meeting.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja NARENDRA KRISNA seconded the motion, which was put and carried.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja NARENDRA KISHNA then called the attention of the meeting to the Dramatic Performances Act. He said that in his opinion the fair working of the new law would greatly depend upon the agency which would be employed for the examinations of dramas intended for the stage. If able and experienced men, who were well acquainted with Sanskt and vernacular literature, with the habits of thought and modes of expression in vogue with the people, and with the history of local customs, usages, and institutions, were appointed as local committees for the examination of the dramas in question, there need be no fear or misgiving as to the salutary working of the law. He would accordingly propose that the committee address the Government on the subject suggesting the appointment of a committee of experts in every province for the examination of dramas intended for the stage.

Kumar Purna Chunder Sing seconded the motion which was carried.

EXAMINATION FOR THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

To the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

The Humble Memorial of the British Indian Association Meeting in Calcutta.

Sheweth,—That your memorialists have perused your Lordship's despatch, ordering certain changes in the rules governing the examination of candidates for the Indian Civil Service.

The most important change prescribed, which seriously affects Indian candidates for the examination, is that by which the maximum age of candidates is reduced from 21 to 19 years. The object of this change seems to be, primarily to enable the successful candidates to acquire University, training after they have passed the competitive examination.

Your memorialists are fully alive to the advantages of liberal education in those who, as members of the Covenanted Civil Service, are called upon to govern the destinies of the people of India; but they respectfully submit that that object might be better attained by raising, instead of lowering, the maximum limit of age.

India has been drawn so close to England by means of steam and electricity, and such great facilities are offered by the new leave and furlough rules to Indian Civilians to visit their homes, while the sanitary improvements in India have been so marked, that the necessity of acclimatizing them, by insisting upon their early advent in this country, no longer exists; and the addition of two or three years to the maximum limit of age for candidates for the Indian Civil Service competition would rather be an advantage, inasmuch as young men of mature years are likely to better understand their position and duties, and to be less liable to be imposed upon by designing men in this country. It appears that, of the Indian officers who have been consulted on the subject, 33 have expressed themselves in favour of raising the age, and 27 in favour of lowering it.

The immediate result of the proposed change, your memorialists apprehend, will be a lowering of the standard of qualification; for it is impossible to suppose that youths of 19 and under will be able to bring the same amount of knowledge to the Examination Board which may be reasonably expected from persons of 21.

The difference of two years at the critical period of transition from youth to manhood is of much greater moment than at any other period of life. Doubtless, the subsequent examination will exercise some check against the admission of really incompetent persons to the service; but the hardship to those who will fail to pass those examinations will be serious, and, in the majority of cases, mediocrity will have to be tolerated, as was the case when persons for the Civil Service were trained in Haileybury College. Thus, one great advantage of the competitive system will be sacrificed.

It is well known that the first batch of Indian Civilians under the competitive system were noted for high University culture; and then the maximum age was 23. These gentlemen have, as a body, distinguished themselves far more than their successors—indeed, they constitute the flower of the competitive service; and, in their case, it is evident both they and the country have gained by the maximum limit of age being fixed at 23. Judging, then by experience, it would be a decided improvement, if the limit of age were raised from 21 to 23, which would leave a sufficient margin for University teaching. Indeed, should your Lordship deem it expedient, it might be ordained simultaneously that no candidate shall be passed at the further examinations who may not be able to produce a certificate of University training.

But your memorialists perceive that a lower limit of age, in your Lordship's estimation, is recommended by another consideration. It is stated that, "out of the number who present themselves for competition, it is certain that four-fifths must fail, because the candidates are usually more than five times as many as the vacancies, and no prudent parent, in selecting a profession for his son, will leave this certainly out of consideration. Some professions are absolutely closed, others are almost impossible to a man who thinks for the first time of entering them at the age of 22. A man, therefore who competes for the Indian civil service at that age, undoubtedly strives for a valuable prize, but does it at a formidable risk. He stakes, in a measure, his chance of self-support upon the result of a competition in which it is certain that four-fifths must fail. It is more than probable that such a risk must weigh strongly with parents, and diminish the field of competition, especially among the professional class. But no such apprehension will be possible, if the limit of age is fixed at 19."

Your memorialists, however, have seen it stated that this view is not taken by the parents of those youths who usually appear at the competitive examinations, nor by those who are responsible for their instruction. Both think that the new rule will lead to more cramming, and, consequently to less efficiency, while it will impair the health of the learners.

These observations apply with ten-fold force to the case of Indian candidates. If a consideration for the future of English candidates has prompted the lowering of the age, the interests of Indian candidates have, your memorialists are constrained to say, been completely ignored in that consideration. Under the existing rules, the Indian candidates labour under serious disadvantages in competing with English youths in their own country and language for admission into the higher ranks of the public service in their father-land. They are required to leave India at an age when parental direction and control are most needed, at considerable expense, often beyond the means of parents with moderate incomes, and under great privations, which their habits of life necessarily entail—not to say at the sacrifice of venerated traditions, customs, and feelings—for the mere chance of a successful competition.

It may, therefore, be easily conceived what a serious blow would the new rule, lowering the maximum age from 21 to 19 years, prove to the prospects of Indian youths proceeding to England for competing for the Indian Civil Service. In India (your memorialists speak of Bengal) professional education in law and medicine generally commence at the age of 19. The maximum age for matriculation being fixed at 16, and making allowance for one year for births in other months than that of the examination, and for failures, consequent on ill health and other causes, the first Arts examination, or the Little-go, taking place after two years, the student thus attains the age of 19 before he is allowed to study law or medicine. An Indian youth competing for the Indian Civil Service, at the least, requires two years for preparation in England, and he cannot be expected nor ought to be required, to proceed thither immediately after matriculation, which means simply an introduction to the elements of the English language. As youths so imperfectly grounded cannot reasonably expect to run the race successfully with English youths in their mother tongue in a competitive test the result would, obviously and practically, be the closing of the competitive door to the people of this country.

Your memorialists need hardly remind your Lordship that, notwithstanding the repeated declaration of the Imperial Parliament, the Home Government, and Her Gracious Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India, conveyed in formal statutes, despatches, and proclamations, assuring the people of India that, without distinction of race or creed, they shall be "freely and impartially admitted to offices, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability, and integrity, duly to discharge," the patronage was so exercised from the establishment of British rule in this country that, until 1856, not a single native of India was admitted into the Civil Service; and when, at last, the service was thrown open to public competition, the seat of the examination being fixed at London, it was beyond the reach of ninety-nine out of every hundred of Indian youths, animated with an honourable ambition, to serve their country and sovereign in the higher offices of the State. That this is a serious disability, is proved by the fact that, although competitive examination has been in force for nearly two and twenty years, the member of Indian candidates who have been able to enter service by a journey to England scarcely exceeds half that number. But even this opening, your memorialists apprehend, will be closed, if the new rule of limiting the maximum of age to 19 years be enforced.

This is the first instance, your memorialists believe, in the history of the Government of one country by another, in which the subject people are required to proceed to the governing country to obtain a certificate for employment in the service of their fatherland, to the infringement of long venerated national customs and social observances. When the injustice of the present rule is so apparent, and the hardships following from it are so great, your memorialists may be permitted to hope that your Lordship will see the propriety of moving Her Gracious Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India to order that the competitive examination of Native candidates in India for admission into the Civil Service shall be held in India.

In directing that the competitive examination for the Indian Civil Service shall be held in India for Native candidates in India, it will, your memorialists venture to think, be necessary to declare a definite share of covenanted appointments to be thrown open to Indian competition every year, so as to prevent an undue influx of the Native element into the Service in the present experimental condition of the measure.

Your Lordship, from your position and knowledge of the requirements of the Indian service, will be the best able to decide the proportion of appointments to be assigned to Indian candidates, and they have not the remotest hesitation in believing that your decision will be in accordance with strict justice to the claims of the Natives of India.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

(Sd.) Jotendra Mohun Tagore, Honorary Secretary, British Indian Association.

British Indian Association Rooms, No. 18, British Indian Street, the 28th November, 1876.

DISTRICT APPELLATE BENCHES.

To the Hon'ble Sir Richard Garth, Kt., Chief Justice of Her Majesty's High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal.

My Lord,—The Committee of the British Indian Association desire me to offer your Lordship their thanks for having them with a copy of your Lordship's minute on the subject of the improvement of the District Appellate Courts.

The Committee are glad to find that, on a question of the utmost importance to the people of this country, on which they have long held, and which they have from time to time endeavoured to impress on the Legislature and the Government, have enlisted your Lordship's powerful and distinguished advocacy, enforced with an ability, breadth of mind, and zeal which cannot but command admiration.

In 1857, when the Committee addressed Sir, then John Peter Grant, who first proposed the scheme of Composite Benches in India, they remarked that "the abandonment of the principle that no degree of efficiency in appellate authority can compensate for gross inefficiency in the constitution of original jurisdiction will readily be accepted by all." Almost two years have passed away since their remark was penned. A new generation of Natives have come to the front, who are better educated, and imbued with a better spirit, and they have changed the character of the native bar. The young men who now fill the subordinate ranks of the judicial service, and who constitute the bar of the High Court and of the District Courts, have brought an amount of knowledge and ability, an acquaintance with the theory and practical application of law, and honorable professional life, to bear on the discharge of public duties, which reflect credit on themselves, and on the Government which, with a generous and enlightened motive, has educated them for that to the great advantage of the country. The Courts of Original Jurisdiction and the bar of the District Courts have thus greatly improved; and it is sometimes remarked by covenanted officers themselves that, in the knowledge and practical application of law, the spectacle is not unfrequently of a District Appellate Judge taking a lower position than with them. This state of things, the Committee are of opinion, ought to be remedied; and it cannot be remedied by simply associating a Native Judge with the European Judge on the District Bench. They respectfully submit that the judicial and the executive services ought to be entirely separated wholly and absolutely; and it may be a question worthy of consideration whether, in reconstituting the judicial service, the present distinction of covenanted and uncovenanted should be maintained, or even whether the Judges, *viz.*, Civil and Criminal, should be kept separate; in fact, the time has not come for the reconstitution of the judicial service on a broad and catholic basis, without distinction of race, colour, or creed; knowledge, ability, fitness, experience, and character forming the only passport to service. The legislature has anticipated public opinion by abolishing all distinctions between covenanted and uncovenanted Magistrates, and by dividing them into classes, leaving it to the Executive Government to vest individual officers with powers under different classes, irrespective of covenanted, or uncovenanted. Thus, an uncovenanted Magistrate of experience may be vested with first class powers, while a covenanted Magistrate newly inducted into the service may exercise only third class powers. In the same way if Civil jurisdiction be regulated, and so far as fixed according to the dignity, importance, and responsibility of the office, and not according to the descent, creed, or colour of the officer; and all competent men whether Europeans or Natives, be, under certain rules, declared equally eligible, a stride will be made in the path of progress which will not only lead the community onward. The union of the functions of the Criminal and Civil Judge in the same person does not militate against efficiency. The District Judges and the Judges of the High Court combine the two functions, without complaint on the part of the public. Formerly, particular Moonsiffs and Principal Sudder Ameens used to be selected and vested with Magisterial powers. The Committee are satisfied that if this complete separation of the judicial service from the executive be carried out the efficiency of the administration of justice would be vastly improved.

The Committee have over and over urged upon the Government the paramount importance of securing the independence of the Bench; and they are convinced that unless the Native Judge of the proposed District Appellate Court be placed on a perfectly equal footing with his European colleague, the contemplated change would in no sense be an improvement. The Native Judge would then merely be the *alter ego* of the European Judge and the mischief to the public would be the greater because the Native Judge would be a sort of buffer between his European colleague and the outside public. The Committee gratefully acknowledge that your Lordship lays just stress upon the independence of the Native Judge. They also observe that your Lordship fully appreciates the superior advantages of a composite Bench of three Judges, but that financial considerations seem to stand in the way. The committee are humbly, of opinion that the Judicial receipts in Bengal are so much in excess of judicial charges that, if the Government will allow these surplus to be devoted to the service of Bengal, as it in common fairness ought to do, and revise the salaries and numerical strength of the judicial service, means may be found for the establishment of a composite District Bench, without trenching upon the general resources of the Empire.

The subject is of vital importance, and is surrounded with great practical difficulties. The committee are confident that these difficulties may be satisfactorily solved, if distinguished officers like your Lordship, who have only one object in view, *viz.*, the improvement of the administration of justice, and who unite to a fresh English mind a practical and sympathising acquaintance with this country, will lend their powerful aid to the settlement of the question.

I have &c. (Sd) Jotendramohun Tagore, Honorary Secretary B. I. Association.

British Indian Association Rooms, No. 18 British Indian Street, Calcutta, the 24th November 1876.

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